



A Message from United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc & United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund
President, Penobscot Indian Nation Chief Kirk E. Francis, Sr.

To all of our modern day warriors who gather today in solidarity and in strong opposition to the recent shameful trust land reversal decision...I thank you!

Thank you for standing with our relatives from Mashpee. Thank you for standing in support of our inherent sovereign rights and authorities as bestowed upon us by our Creator.

Your presence here in the U.S. Capitol will ensure that our voices are heard and that our presence is felt. Your presence reflects our steadfast determination to stand up against acts that fail to reflect fulfillment of the sacred promises and obligations made to us so long ago. Your presence will ensure that we are not invisible within OUR own lands!

Beginning with the arrival of the Pilgrims in 1620, the Wampanoag demonstrated regard, respect, and humanity to the strangers new to their lands. If not for the Wampanoag, strangers who would have suffered an ill fate. If not for the Wampanoag, the story of America would likely be far different than the one we understand today. Unfortunately, in return, we are all too familiar with the subsequent series of events that were perpetrated against us.

The recent Mashpee decision is yet but another failure to extend Indian Country the same regard, respect, and humanity.

During a month designed to honor and celebrate Native Americans, including America's Thanksgiving story, here we stand once again fighting against injustice. Here we stand once again fighting to achieve the recognition, honor, and respect that we deserve within our own lands. This shameful Mashpee decision stands in complete contradiction to the honor and respect that the Mashpee deserve...that we all deserve as America's indigenous peoples and first Nations.

So I say to you today...NO MORE.

No more must we allow for invisibility, injustice, disregard, dishonor, and disrespect to be committed against us.

These are challenging times...times that test our resolve and determination, but I am confident that each and every one of you has been called for this moment. It is imperative that we recognize the weight of this moment. We must move forward with the strength and wisdom instilled in each and every one of us by those who came before us. Each and every one of you carry the spirit and determination of our ancestors who ensured that we would persevere as a people.

Here in America's Capitol, let it be known and heard from coast to coast, from sea to shining sea, that...

WE ARE STILL HERE AND WE STAND TOGETHER IN UNITY.

WE ARE STILL HERE AND WE STAND TOGETHER AGAINST INJUSTICE.

WE ARE STILL HERE AND WE DEMAND THAT OUR STORY BE HONORED WITH THE TRUTH.

WE ARE STILL HERE AND STRONGER THAN EVER.

WE ARE STILL HERE AND DETERMINED TO REASSUME OUR RIGHTFUL PLACE WITHIN OUR HOMELANDS.

WE ARE STILL HERE AND WE WILL PROTECT WHO WE ARE AND ALL THAT IS SACRED TO US.

WE ARE STILL HERE AND WE WILL FIGHT TO PROTECT OUR SOVEREIGNTY.

WE ARE STILL HERE...WE ARE STILL HERE AND WE STAND WITH MASHPEE.

Thank you and may the Creator offer us all with strength, guidance, and wisdom to ensure that our future is bright, prosperous, and just.

remarks offered by Chief Lynn Malerba, USET/USET SPF Secretary During the November 14th Mashpee Walk in Washington D.C.