

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND AND EIGHT
—

**JOINT RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE
UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE
RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

WHEREAS, on September 13, 2007 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a landmark declaration outlining the rights of the world's estimated 370 million indigenous people, those people native to an area, and outlawing discrimination against them; and

WHEREAS, the nonbinding declaration expresses the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples, as well as their rights that pertain to culture, identity, language, employment, health, education and other issues; and

WHEREAS, the declaration also affirmed the rights of indigenous peoples to maintain and strengthen their own institutions, cultures and traditions and to pursue their development in keeping with their own needs and aspirations; and

WHEREAS, in considering the rights of indigenous people everywhere, the declaration also holds that discrimination against indigenous people should be abolished and that promotion of their full and effective participation in all matters that concern them should be encouraged; and

WHEREAS, the right to remain distinct and to pursue their own visions of economic and social development is vital according to this declaration; and

WHEREAS, the State of Maine has a special relationship with its own indigenous people and is the only state in the United States to grant seats to its indigenous peoples, the Penobscot Nation and the Passamaquoddy Tribe, on the floor of the House of Representatives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-third Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to express support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Tribal Representatives of the Penobscot Nation and the Passamaquoddy Tribe.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 15, 2008

READ AND ADOPTED.

ROLL CALL NO. 403

(YEAS 133 - NAYS 0 - ABSENT 18 - EXCUSED 0)

SENT FOR CONCURRENCE. ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH.

Millicent M. MacFarland
CLERK

IN THE SENATE CHAMBER

April 15, 2008

UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES READ AND ADOPTED, IN
CONCURRENCE.

Jay J. O'Brien
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE