

**SPEECH AT THE INAUGURATION OF GOVERNOR BARRY DANA,
LT GOVERNOR MIKE BEAR, REPRESENTATIVE DONNA LORING AND SIX
NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS
NOV 4, 2000**

Thank you Maullian.

**Tribal chiefs, Tribal Council Members, Tribal
Members and Honorable Guests.**

**It is an honor to have you all here on Indian island at
the inauguration ceremony of our Tribal Governor
and Chief.**

**As representative of the Penobscot Nation to the
Maine State Legislature I represent a political bridge
between the State of Maine and our Tribal
Government. It is not an easy task. We have many
contentious issues in areas such as sovereignty,
economic development, environmental protection,
and Natural resources. Sovereignty and jurisdictional
concerns are always at the top of the issues list. The
issues become compounded when we find we know
little or nothing about their history or background.
Education, communication and understanding are
needed in order to develop an equitable solution to
these issues.**

The keys to a successful State and Tribal relationship are recognition, respect, trust and equality.

The State has traditionally viewed tribal governments as being liabilities and not assets. The challenges tribes face in order to overcome this paradigm are great.

The State government has not considered that Tribal governments have become more sophisticated.

Since the land claims we have strengthened our own governmental infrastructures such as police and safety, health services, Tribal Courts, our school systems as well as human services. We have a greater pool of college graduates who have come back to the tribes in various fields of expertise.

Maine tribes have been successful in some business endeavors and have contributed economically to their surrounding towns and municipalities. These contributions have gone unnoticed.

The Penobscot Nation has developed it's own land management plans and regulations. It has a GIS system that is second to none. Tribes across Maine are experiencing their own successes.

It is time that Maine State government take a fresh look at Maine Tribal Governments and

recognize their contributions to the State and their full partnership potential.

There needs to be reconciliation in this State between its Tribal and State Governments.

We need to reconcile the past and move up to the present so that we can lay a permanent foundation of trust and mutual respect.

The world is changing and a highly competitive global market is immerging. The State of Maine will need all of its natural and human resources to compete.

The Tribes and the State of Maine have an opportunity to take the lead in this country and redefine tribal and state relations in a positive manner; One of partnership and equality, one of growth and opportunity, one of vision and creativity.

We look forward to working with the State of Maine towards reconciliation and redefining the paradigm to include one of respect, recognition and equality.

Thank you.