



June 21, 2012

Governor Paul LePage  
1 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Governor LePage,

We, the Chiefs of the Wabanaki Confederacy in Maine, seek your support for legislation to require the fish way at the Grand Falls Dam on the St. Croix River be ordered open for the passage of sea-run fish. This fish way was ordered closed by Maine law in 1995, and its closure has increasingly diminished the availability of a cultural food source for the Passamaquoddy People and the activities around which our culture and economy are built.

In 1980, the Wabanaki settled a land dispute (Settlement) with Maine and obtained certain guarantees that the State would not interfere with our right to take fish for sustenance in our reservation waters. Unilateral State action leading to the removal of indigenous fish from our waters was not part of the agreement. All parties to the Settlement have procedures to notify each other in the event that fish and wildlife management policies enacted by one party are deemed to adversely affect fish and wildlife stocks on lands and waters subject to regulation by another party or parties. We are notifying you that Maine's fishery management policy on the St. Croix River has resulted in a devastating loss of sea-run fish in Passamaquoddy waters, which has reduced the availability of a native food source thus disturbing Passamaquoddy culture in a way that Congress understood the Settlement was not intended to do.

Accordingly, it is our intent to direct our Representatives to the Maine Legislature to submit legislation requiring the Grand Falls Dam fish passage be ordered open for sea-run fish and ask that you meet with us or our representatives to ensure that we fully understand each other on this matter. It is our hope that subsequent fisheries management on the St. Croix River will reflect our mutual needs.

With Great Respect,

Chief Clayton Cleaves  
Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point

Chief Joseph Socobasin  
Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township

Chief Kirk Francis  
Penobscot Indian Nation

Chief Brenda Commander  
Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians

Chief Richard Getchell  
Aroostook Band of Micmacs