

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

October 10, 2012

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

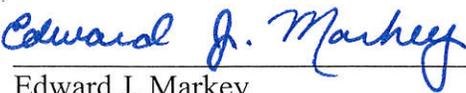
We write in support of the historically significant Tribal-State Compact between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, two of this country's oldest sovereign governments.

With your approval of the negotiated Compact, the Tribe will be able to chart a new path to revitalization and economic independence. The terms of the Compact benefit both the Tribe and the Commonwealth by providing new business and employment opportunities for the members of the Tribe, while also contributing newly earned resources to the local economies.

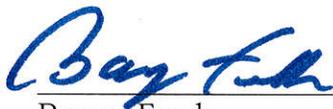
Utilizing the rights granted by the United States Congress, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe will own and operate a resort casino under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. In compliance with this law, a portion of the Tribe's gaming revenues will be applied toward improving tribal education and health care systems so that current and future generations of the Tribe will have the necessary tools to thrive and prosper.

The Tribal-State Compact strikes a neat balance between the needs of the Commonwealth and the Tribe. The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe was an ally of the United States since meeting the Pilgrims in Plymouth, Massachusetts and offered protection throughout those early years. By approving this Compact, we will see a new era of economic productivity for the Tribe and the Commonwealth that will benefit all Massachusetts citizens. We greatly appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress



Barney Frank
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress