



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Commission on Indian Affairs*

*John W. McCormack Building*  
*One Ashburton Place - Rm. 1004*

*Boston, Mass. 02108*

*Telephone 617-727-6394 / 6966*

WILLIAM F. WELD  
GOVERNOR

JANE W. GUMBLE  
DIRECTOR - DEPT. OF  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

JOHN A. PETERS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RECOGNITION AND REAFFIRMATION  
OF THE SEACONKE WAMPANOAG TRIBE

*Greetings:*

Please be advised that the Governor's Commissioners on Indian Affairs for the State of Massachusetts have received and internalized The Constitution of the Seaconke Wampanoag, and

Whereas, the Seaconke Wampanoag do declare themselves as a free standing tribe in the Wampanoag Nation, and

Whereas, the Seaconke Wampanoag constituency is made up of their Membership with a goal to attain and maintain the Highest of Values, and

Whereas, the Seaconke Wampanoag indicate a strong desire to do just works for unselfish reasons for posterity, and

Whereas, the Seaconke Wampanoag have authored a bright mission statement which boldly states that they are to rediscover and develop their "Native Heritage" and that they are going "to Reaffirm" that Heritage, now, for their people and as a continuum for posterity.

Therefore, in light of all the aforementioned goals and objectives, The Commissioners on Indian Affairs for the State of Massachusetts, do Reaffirm their Recognition of the Seaconke Wampanoag People and are here to celebrate the rebirth of their tribe as part of the Wampanoag Nation on this date, One February, Nineteen-Hundred and Ninety-Seven.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Slow Turtle Peters".

John Slow Turtle Peters  
Executive Director

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS:** One year ago, twenty one members of the Elderkin family began to conduct "follow your heart" meetings, in search of the roots of their common heritage that was destroyed in 1675 after the King Philip War; and

**WHEREAS:** This heritage has emerged as the Seaconke Wampanoag Tribe, or keepers of the gate of the land known as the Seaconke Plain; and

**WHEREAS:** This Tribal recognition will place the Seaconke Wampanoags at a proper level with their brothers and sisters, the Mashpee and Gayhead Tribes, allow them to pursue the reestablishment of their historical destiny and forge a new Wampanoag Federation; and

**WHEREAS:** Mr. John Peters, Executive Director of the Mass. Commission of Indian Affairs, a most respected member of the Tribal Communities is present to bestow this recognition; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** That as elected representatives of the Town of Rehoboth, the Board of Selectmen join in celebration of this unique event that represents the first restoration of such Tribal recognition in the State, and extend official congratulations on behalf of all citizens of our community on this special day February 1, 1997, to all members of the

## SEACONKE WAMPANOAG TRIBE

**HEREUNTO:** We officially set our hands this twenty seventh day of January, in the Year Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-seven.



*Carol A. Gilbert*  
Carol A. Gilbert, Chairman

*Wendy Wolfe Cardarelli*  
Wendy Wolfe Cardarelli, Clerk

*Arthur F. Tobin*  
Arthur F. Tobin

REHOBOTH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

## **SEACONKE WAMPANOAG MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Seaconke Wampanoag Tribe is to rediscover and develop our Native heritage. To take this wherever this may lead for the betterment of ourselves and our descendants.

We are determined to follow our heart in this quest to seek out our past, reaffirm our present, and develop our future for the greater good of all. Our search for the truth will be unyielding

We hold our ancestors close to our heart and the future of our children in our hands. We are determined to make whole our Native heritage and bring alive that culture that was once cut off from us.

## **SEACONKE WAMPANOAG VALUE STATEMENT**

We will equivocally use right and just practices in our search for the truth. We will always be above board and open with our constituency. We are determined to make clear all that is asked of us.

We consider our constituency to be: our Membership, our Community, Allies, Friends and Associates. We will seek to do work that benefits all. We will be honest in all things and in all ways.

## SEACONKE WAMPANOAG POSTERITY

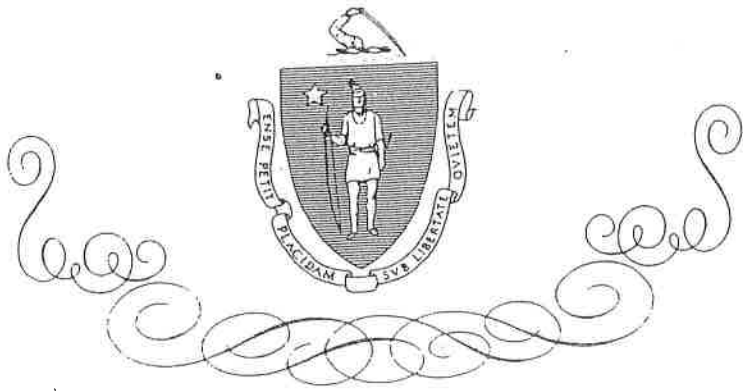
*It is for the future that we all work to create a better place for our selves and our descendants. It will be up to us to do just works for unselfish reasons that will advance this cause. Our common past is what has brought us together and made us, what we are. What we do together will shape the lives of our children and their children.*

*Our hope and faith is that our works will forever benefit our people. That what we do today, will bring a healing to past wounds and be a foundation to build a great house that will take in and comfort all. Our dream is that one day long in the future when a descendant is asked in some far off place where he or she comes from and who he is, he will stand firm and say "I am a Seaconke Wampanoag", and all will know who he is and where he comes from.*

*Let the creators will be done, let this be a living testament to the will of the founders. That we the "Seaconke Wampanoags" have risen from the ashes. Let the defiant cry of Annawan ring out once more, for the people of Massasoit, for a people who dreamed as all mankind does, for a life of peace and harmony. Let us speak the words that once shook the timber of an enemy and united our people, IOOTASH !!*

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The House of Representatives



Be it hereby known to all that:  
The Massachusetts House of Representatives  
offers its sincerest congratulations to:

THE SEACONKE WAMPANOAG TRIBE

in recognition of

YOUR FORMAL RECOGNITION AS A MEMBER TRIBE OF THE WAMPANOAG CONFEDERATION.

The entire membership extends its very best wishes  
and expresses the hope for future good fortune  
and continued success in all endeavors.

Given this 1st day of FEBRUARY, 1997  
at the State House, Boston, Massachusetts



by: *Thomas M. Finneran*

Thomas M. Finneran  
Speaker of the House

Offered by: *Philip Travis*  
State Representative  
PHILIP TRAVIS

RECOGNITION OF THE  
SEACONKE WAMPANOAG TRIBE

*To all whom these presents shall come, Greetings:*

*Please be advised that the Governor's Executive Director of Indian Affairs,  
John Slow Turtle Peters and all Commissioners of Indian Affairs for the State  
of Massachusetts have received and internalized The Constitution of the  
Seaconke Wampanoag, and*

*Whereas the Seaconke Wampanoag do declare themselves as a free  
standing tribe in the Wampanoag Federation, and*

*Whereas the Seaconke Wampanoag constituency is made up of their  
Membership, Community, Allies, Friends and Associates with a goal to attain  
and maintain the Highest of Values, and*

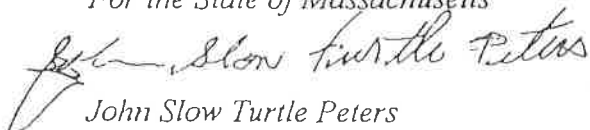
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statement which boldly states that they are to rediscover and develop their  
"Native Heritage" and that they are going "to Reaffirm" that Heritage, now,  
for their people and as a continuum for posterity.*

*Therefore, in light of all the aforementioned goals and objectives,*

*We, the Executive Director of Indian Affairs for the State of Massachusetts and  
all Commissioners for Indian Affairs for the State of Massachusetts, do  
Recognize the Seaconke Wampanoag People as a Tribe of the Wampanoag  
Federation on this date, One February, Nineteen-Hundred and Ninety-Seven.*

*Executive Director of Indian Affairs  
For the State of Massachusetts*

  
John Slow Turtle Peters