



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

FEB 07 2013

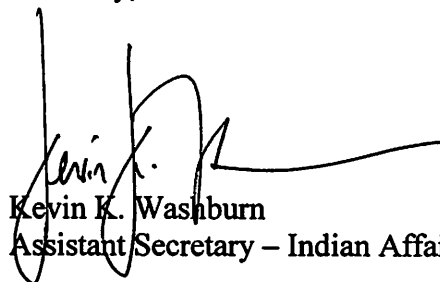
Honorable Cedric Cromwell
Chairman, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
483 Great Neck Road South
Mashpee, Massachusetts 02649

Dear Chairman Cromwell:

As you know, the Department of the Interior has under review the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's application to acquire lands in trust in the towns of Mashpee and Taunton, Massachusetts, pursuant to Section 5 of the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA), 25 U.S.C § 465. The Tribe has also requested that the Department issue a reservation proclamation for these lands pursuant to Section 7 of the IRA, 25 U.S.C § 467, and determine that the lands will qualify as the Tribe's "initial reservation" pursuant to Section 20 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), 25 U.S.C. § 2719(b)(1)(B)(ii).

I write to inform you that the Office of Indian Gaming has completed its review of the Tribe's request for a determination that these lands qualify as the Tribe's "initial reservation." The Office finds that these lands will qualify as such pursuant to IGRA if they are acquired in trust and proclaimed a reservation pursuant to Sections 5 and 7 of the IRA. The Tribe's application is under review at the Eastern Regional Office, and the review process is continuing. The Department will finalize its initial reservation determination when a decision is issued on the Tribe's fee to trust application. Please contact the Eastern Regional Office if you have questions regarding the Tribe's application.

Sincerely,



Kevin K. Washburn
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs