

SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBE

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David Reede
Vice-Chairman

Wendsler Nosie, Sr.
Tribal Chairman



The Honorable Secretary Ken Salazar
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

It was a pleasure and an honor to speak with you during the Tribal Leaders Conference with President Barack Obama at the White House in early November, 2009. I wish you and your staff a Happy New Year. It has been an inspiring year for the San Carlos Apache Tribe in 2009 and we look forward to this next year in our partnership with the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs on both projects and future developments.

It is my understanding that federal officials last Monday agreed to a request by the Mashpee and Aquinnah Wampanoag tribes of Massachusetts for special protections for Nantucket Sound. I understand that this action could delay construction of a proposed wind farm off Cape Cod that both of the tribes oppose. Further, The National Park Service has stated that the Nantucket Sound is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places given the environment, land value and its significant ties to Mashpee and Aquinnah Wampanoag traditional cultural, historic and archaeological property that includes burial grounds of their people.

The Mashpee and Aquinnah Wampanoag tribes have been preserving these lands for centuries and the designation by the National Park Service would allow for new regulations and protective actions in this area to preserve the tribe's cultural and religious rituals in addition to preserving land that have been untouched to any environmental destruction.

I urge the Department of Interior to not move forward in the approval of any federal permits in defense of the cultural and religious existence of the Mashpee and Aquinnah Wampanoag people. This case is that of our Oak Flat lands in Arizona. Progression in the name of mining or in this case, the turbines will bring jobs yes, but at what costs to both the environment and the people who come from these lands?

The religious customs and practices are the core of our existence as native people. It is through these religious practices that we have received our blessings and our guidance that provides us the strength and protection we have carried forward for centuries. It is my hope that as a member of President

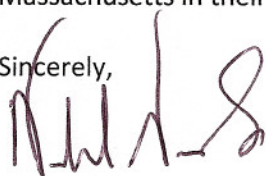
Obama's Cabinet, that the Department of Interior will follow the action of his words when he met with tribal leaders in November, 2009. He stated that our native people will not be forgotten and he would strive to restore the history of the federal government in its past neglect and broken promises to Native America.

The historic meeting that was held at Oak Flat on August 21, 2009 was unique as you seen the sacred religious grounds. You indicated that the visit was "spiritually moving" and I do believe the spirits were present in blessing for us. I acknowledge that you have gained a deep understanding of the respect we have for our lands. We certainly appreciated your full participation in the tasting of our cultural foods, our song , and prayers which we still practiced today.

Our ancestors have fought long and hard to preserve what they had and for us Oak Flat will be an area that we will carry on our livelihood for the next generation of San Carlos Apaches. The people of Nantucket Sound, the Mashpee and Aquinnah Wampanoag are no different than us and for years the Honorable late Senator Edward Moore Kennedy served as a voice in protecting these native brothers and sisters whose sole interests is to protect the lands of their people as well as their customs both cultural and religious.

Secretary Salazar, I am in full agreement with both you and President Obama in "Forging ahead together for a better future for our people." The first step in the direction of our future is to know that as native people, we have been ruled by policy after policy resulting in words that were broken repeatedly. What has kept us as a people has been our culture, our religious practices. If we are to truly move forward with you for a better future, then I asked that you support the Mashpee and Aquinnah Wampanoag of Massachusetts in their request to protect the lands of Nantucket Sound.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Wendsler Nosie Sr.', written in a cursive style.

Wendsler Nosie Sr., Tribal Chairman
San Carlos Apache Tribe

Northern Michigan University
2010 Indigenous Earth Issues Summit Resolution

Calling on the Secretary of the Interior
in support of denying the permit for the Cape Wind Project
slated for Horseshoe Shoal, Nantucket Sound, Massachusetts

- WHEREAS, The Indigenous Earth Issues Summit urgently and sincerely support the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head(Aquinnah) positions ; and,
- WHEREAS, the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) and Mashpee Wampanoag are member Tribes of the Great Nation of Wampanoag People, known as “*The People of the First Light*”. Their name defines who they are and differentiates them from all other Tribal Nations. Their name and its definition are their cultural and spiritual identity, and the essence of who they are. Since time immemorial, the Wampanoag People have inhabited the area of the eastern most lands and water, and have maintained their traditional, spiritual and cultural connection to them; and,
- WHEREAS, the right to practice their religious ceremony in the traditional manner will be forever denied by a proposed experimental wind farm consisting of 130+/- windmill turbines, with propeller blades reaching approximately 440’ above the surface of the water, on an area of about 25 square miles (about the size of Manhattan); slated to be located in the shallow waters of Horseshoe Shoal in Nantucket Sound, in the middle of the shores of Cape Cod, Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket, MA; and,
- WHEREAS, The Indigenous Earth Issues Summit concurs with the determinations of eligibility from the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer and the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places and concurs with the recommendations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; and,
- WHEREAS, There are alternative sites available that will allow Cape Wind to be developed and still maintain the balance of cultural and spiritual meaning to the Tribes; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED the Indigenous Earth Issues Summit supports the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) and Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and their position of opposition of the location of the Cape Wind project on Horseshoe Shoal in Nantucket Sound, due to its devastating and destructive impact to the traditional, spiritual, religious and cultural practices and freedoms of all Wampanoag People; and be it further
- RESOLVED the Indigenous Earth Issues Summit requests the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Ken Salazar, to affirm the ACHP recommendations and to deny the permitting of Cape Wind Project which will adversely affect and destroy the essence of the tranquility, sanctity and spirituality of this Sacred Place for all time.

Certification

This resolution was duly passed by consensus at the Indigenous Earth Issues Summit, meeting at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan, on Monday, April 5, 2010. For more information, please contact the Summit Coordinator, Aimée Cree Dunn, at 906-227-1393.



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.
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January 13, 2010

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Native Concerns with Cape Wind Project

Dear Secretary Salazar:

On behalf of the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET), an inter-tribal organization representing 25 Federally recognized Tribes from Texas to Maine, I am writing to express our strong support for the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) in their efforts to assure that the Cape Wind Project is not developed at the expense of ancient tribal cultural and spiritual practices and beliefs.

The waterways around the United States are not vacant spaces. They belong to the history and culture of the coastal peoples of America. Today, their value is so great that their use is carefully mapped and managed. In the case of the Wampanoag, the waters of Nantucket Sound are a part of their ancient homelands whose preservation and character are essential to spiritual purposes that go to the heart of their identity as the "People of the First Light." For those not familiar with Native culture, it can be hard to see the sacred spaces of America as Native peoples have seen them for thousands of years, but most Americans would understand that you could never build a wind turbine farm on top of the Gettysburg battlefield. The Cape Wind Project poses problems of similar magnitude.

USET understands the urgent nature of reinventing our Nation's energy infrastructure, but it is in just such urgent times that actions are taken over the protests of a minority that only years later are understood to have been grave errors. Federal Indian policy is littered with such "urgent" actions that ended up only benefiting the needs of non-Indians.

"Because there is strength in Unity"

There is no justification for building the Cape Wind project and by doing so trampling on Native culture and beliefs that precede the founding of the United States by thousands of years.

USET has passed two resolutions addressing the Cape Wind project, which are attached to this letter. We urge your support for the Wampanoag and thank you for the time that you are giving this matter.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Patterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Brian Patterson
President

Cc: Larry Echohawk, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs