

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF  
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 2015-012  
DATE October 14, 2015

**AN ORDER RESPECTING JOINT SOVEREIGNTY AND INTERDEPENDENCE**

WHEREAS, the State of Maine is a sovereign state in its own right;

WHEREAS, the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation, the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, and the Houlton Band of Maliseets are sovereigns in their own right;

WHEREAS, the relationship between the State of Maine and the individual Tribes is a relationship between equals, each with its own set of responsibilities;

WHEREAS, all tribe members, Indian nations, and tribes and bands of Indians in the State and any lands or other natural resources owned by them or held in trust for them are subject to the laws of the State and to the civil and criminal jurisdiction of the courts of the State to the same extent as any other person or lands or other natural resources therein;

WHEREAS, previous efforts by the Governor on behalf of the State of Maine to promote collaboration and communication with the Tribes have proved to be unproductive because the State of Maine's interests have not been respected in the ongoing relationship between sovereigns;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Paul R. LePage, Governor of the State of Maine, hereby order as follows:

1. Executive Order 21 FY 11/12, dated August 26, 2011, is hereby rescinded, effective immediately.
2. Nothing in this Order creates or establishes any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the State of Maine, its agencies, or any person.

The effective date of this Executive Order is October 14, 2015.

  
Paul R. LePage, Governor