



John F. Killoy, Jr.
Attorney At Law

December 12, 2023

Honorable Daniel J. McKee
Governor State of Rhode Island
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Narragansett Indian Tribe

Dear Governor McKee:

As requested by Chief Sachem Anthony Dean Stanton, I am writing on the behalf of the Narragansett Indian Tribe of Rhode Island.

In passing the *Rhode Island Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1978*, 25 U.S.C. § 1701, *et seq.* Congress found that there were no possible Indian claims in the State of Rhode Island other than those of the Narragansett.

Later in 1983, the Narragansett Tribe was federally acknowledged and recognized by the United States as an Indian Nation. (*See*, 48 Fed. Reg. 6177-78, Feb. 10, 1983). The Narragansett Tribe is the only federally recognized and acknowledged Indian tribe in the State of Rhode Island. The findings and conclusions of its federal acknowledgment were that the Narragansett Indian Tribe “in aboriginal times, inhabited the area which is today the state of Rhode Island.” (Emph. Added).

Over the past few years, various groups identifying themselves as Indian, Indian tribes, Indian groups and Indian nations have made claims for recognition, benefits, cultural resources, and properties from, or within, the State of Rhode Island. In fact, two bills were introduced in the General Assembly last session. The first, *H-5020* would provide for a petition process for State Recognition of Native American Tribes, in general. The second, *H-5021*, ignores the recognition process proposed in *H-5020*, and instead provided recognition by the State of Rhode Island to a specific group without any substantive historical, anthropological, and genealogical review. Neither bill was voted out of the House Committee on State Government & Elections.

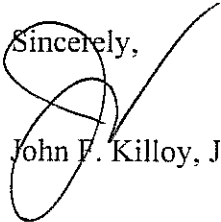
More recently over the past few months, there have been numerous postings on social media by individuals claiming that they are the rightful government of the Narragansett Indian Tribe, declaring themselves sachems of the tribe and otherwise challenging the validity of the Narragansett Indian Tribe, its Chief Sachem and Tribal Council. These actions are malicious to the Tribe and misleading to the people and government of the State of Rhode Island. The Narragansett Indian Tribe is sovereign Indian nation with a government-to-government relationship with the United States and has long historical relationship with the State of Rhode Island.

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Please address any concerns which may arise regarding the lawful recognition of the Narragansett Indian Tribe, its Chief Sachem and Tribal Council to attorney John F. Killoy, Jr. at (401) 792-9090.

Sincerely,



John F. Killoy, Jr.

cc: Governor Daniel McKee
Speaker of the House K. Joseph Shekarchi
President of the Senate Dominick J. Ruggiero
Senator Jack Reed
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
Congressman Seth Magaziner
Congressman Gabe Amo