From:	Domenech, Douglas
To:	Randal Bowman
Subject:	Fwd: Penobscot request for a meeting in ME
Date:	Tuesday, May 23, 2017 11:42:14 AM
Attachments:	Penobscot Letter to Secretary Zinke.pdf

Doug Domenech
Senior Advisor
US Department of the Interior

Office of the Chief and Council

Kirk E. Francis
Chief

Bill Thompson
Vice-Chief

Penobscot Nation
12 Wabanaki Way
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Indian Island, Maine 04468
(207) 827-7776

May 23, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., Room 6612
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

I understand that you may be visiting Maine in the near future as a part of your review of prior national monument designations. The Penobscot Nation would greatly appreciate an opportunity to host you during your visit and provide you a tour of the various governmental programs that we operate and for which we received funding from the Department of the Interior.

The Penobscot Nation has approximately 2,400 citizens and over 123,000 acres of land. About 91,000 acres of our land is held in trust by the United States. Within our land holdings are about 200 islands located within approximately 80 miles of the Penobscot River. Indian Island is our seat of government, our largest housing community, and the headquarters of our various governmental programs.

We are a hunting and fishing culture, and managing our lands and water in a sustainable manner is critical to our sustenance way of living. We would very much appreciate an opportunity to show you our Natural Resources Department and discuss how we utilize funding from the Department to monitor our lands and water, and animals located on and within, for invasive species and insect and disease problems. One of the issues we are currently facing is a shortage of game wardens.

We would also like to show you our tribal court system and Healing to Wellness Court program. We are the only tribal nation in Maine that is a utilizing a medically-assisted Suboxone Treatment Program and a comprehensive wellness program to combat the opioid epidemic. Opioid abuse is our most critical health and public safety risk right now. It is creating alarming levels of death, overdoses, crime, juvenile delinquency, unemployment and family dependence on public assistance within our community. It is a statewide epidemic, but we have been successfully combating it within our community for the past few years. We use funding from the Interior Department to implement a comprehensive wellness program in collaboration with ten tribal departments, including our tribal court system. None of the graduates of this program have

reoffended in the years following their program completion, and the cost of this program is substantially less than incarcerating people.

The Penobscot Nation does a good job of cobbling together funding from various federal programs to develop comprehensive, coordinated and balanced governmental programs. We are proud of the progress we are making and would like an opportunity to show you these programs. We hope that your schedule will permit an opportunity for you to visit our territory. Your staff can contact me at (207) 817-7350 to coordinate schedules.

I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Kirk E. Francis
Chief