



## Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

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**2020-RES-055**

### **RESOLUTION LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR JOE BIDEN/KAMALA HARRIS CAMPAIGN 2020**

**WHEREAS**, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe (“Tribe”) is a federally-recognized Indian tribe with a duly-enacted Constitution;

**WHEREAS**, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council (“Tribal Council”), the governing body of the Tribe, deems it essential under Article VI, § 2.A. of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Constitution (“Constitution”) to promote and protect the political integrity, economic security and general welfare of the Tribe and members of the Tribe;

**WHEREAS**, Indian tribes are sovereigns that pre-date the United States, with prior and treaty protected rights to self-government and to our Indian lands; and

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the United States, through the Treaty, Commerce, and Apportionment Clauses and the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, recognizes the sovereign status of Indian Tribes as Native nations established prior to the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, before the United States, Indian nations were independent sovereigns with complete authority over our lands and our citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribe, pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act, has secured a land base that was proclaimed a reservation by the Secretary of Interior in January 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribe is fighting to secure its land base and prevent the federal government from disestablishing its reservation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council acknowledges that a Joe Biden/Kamala Harris administration has committed to uphold its trust responsibility and protect tribal lands;

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council acknowledges that a Joe Biden/Kamala Harris administration has committed to protect the exercise of self-governance and tribal sovereignty throughout Indian Country;

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council deems it in the best interest of the Tribe to clearly provide its support for the Joe Biden/Kamala Harris Campaign in 2020.



## Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

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**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Tribal Council hereby authorizes and approves the Chairman of the Tribal Council, or authorized Tribal Council Chairman designee, to execute the attached letter of support for the Joe Biden/Kamala Harris administration in substantial conformity as attached hereto as Exhibit A.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Tribal Council authorizes the Tribal Council Chairman, or other authorized Tribal Council Chairman designee, to take such other actions as are reasonable or necessary in furtherance of the submittal and performance under this application.

All resolutions or parts of resolutions inconsistent with this resolution are repealed. This resolution is effective immediately and shall continue pursuant to the authority vested in the Tribal Council pursuant to Article VI, §§ 2.A. and D. of the Constitution.

### CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned Chairperson and Secretary of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council, do hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of 13 members of whom 10, constituting a quorum, were present at a Special meeting thereof, duly and regularly called, noticed, convened, and held on the 30th day of September, 2020, and that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the affirmative vote of 7 members, with 2 opposing, and with 1 not voting.

DATED this 30th day of September, 2020.

Cedric Cromwell, CHAIRMAN  
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council

ATTEST:

Ann Marie Askew, SECRETARY  
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council



# Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

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## EXHIBIT A

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR JOE BIDEN/KAMALA HARRIS CAMPAIGN 2020



**Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe**  
483 Great Neck Road, South  
Mashpee, MA 02649  
Phone 508.477.0208 Fax 508.477.1218

September 30, 2020

Vice President Joe Biden

Re: Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe – Letter of Support for Joe Biden/Kamala Harris Campaign

Honorable Vice President Biden:

On behalf of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, we write in support of the Joe Biden/Kamala Harris campaign for 2020. The Mashpee Wampanoag have resided upon its indigenous territory since time immemorial and are committing to being good stewards and protecting our land for future generations. Notwithstanding our efforts to comply with the stringent regulatory framework required to secure our land base, currently the federal government has abandoned its effort to protect our reservation in contravention of its trust responsibility. We thank Vice President Biden for his public and unwavering support for our efforts. We know that a Biden/Harris administration will not seek to erase the Mashpee Wampanoag and our rich history that is woven into the tapestry of this country. We also know that a Biden/Harris administration will stand with Indian Country as they have stood with us in this fight.

We are confident that Vice President Biden will ensure that self-governance and sovereignty for tribal nations reigns supreme. Such an administration will uphold its federal trust responsibility to all tribal nations and strengthen the government-to-government relations that have been so sorely depredated. We urge our fellow tribal nations and sister tribes to support the Biden/Kamala campaign and join this effort.

Sincerely,

Cedric Cromwell, Chairman