



For information contact:

December 16, 2008

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**CITIZEN COALITION CALLS ON COAKLEY TO INVESTIGATE
MASHPEE WAMPANOAG CASINO PLAN**

Boston, MA: The state-wide, non-partisan citizen coalition, CasinoFreeMass, is calling on Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley to open an investigation into the federal recognition process of the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe. Yesterday, former Mashpee Wampanoag tribal Chairman Glenn Marshall plead guilty to federal charges of making illegal campaign contributions and embezzling \$380,000 in tribal funds. Marshall and the tribe also employed Jack Abramoff, a convicted felon and the mastermind of corruption among tribes looking to expand gambling.

In a letter sent today, Casino Free Mass President Richard Young said “If guilty pleas to the charges of breaking campaign finance laws, tax fraud and embezzlement are not enough to suspend this process, what is? The citizens of Massachusetts should be able to feel confident in the legality and truthfulness of the Wampanoag’s claims, and clearly, these guilty pleas and very serious breaches of public trust cast doubt over the entire process.”

The letter from Casino Free Mass President Richard Young is included below:

Tuesday December 16, 2008
Attorney General Martha Coakley
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Attorney General Coakley,

As president of the citizen group Casino Free Mass, I write to you with grave concern about the guilty pleas of former Mashpee Wampanoag tribal Chairman Glenn Marshall. In this hour, when so much doubt has been cast on Marshall’s honesty and the legality of the entire federal recognition process, I ask you to open an investigation into the proceedings of the Mashpee Wampanoag’s application for federal recognition.

These charges are not simply about Glenn Marshall as an individual, but in his capacity as Chairman of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council from 2001 to 2007. U.S. Attorney Michael Sullivan noted, “during his tenure, Marshall spearheaded the Tribe’s effort to become officially recognized by the federal government, which would qualify the Tribe for an array of federal program benefits, and render it eligible under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act to build

a casino on its lands.” We can now see that Glenn Marshall’s entire drive for federal recognition for the Mashpee Wampanoag was greased with illegal campaign contributions, lies to the public, Congress and his tribe, and embezzlement for personal gain. These are not the circumstances that communicate an honest and trustworthy process. In particular, the close associations with disgraced lobbyist Jack A. Abramoff call into question how this tribe received federal recognition.

The trail of illegal contributions runs through a supposed investment company AtMashpee LLC, which gave the tribe funds in exchange for a stake in a potential casino. It is clear that the motivation to open a casino drove these illegal activities. As Massachusetts lawmakers consider rescinding previous laws and making illegal Class III gambling legal, casino proponents have claimed that the federal recognition of the tribe and the movement of land in to trust makes casinos in the Commonwealth inevitable. Clearly, we need to be having the debate about the future of gambling in Massachusetts with full information about the position of the Mashpee Wampanoag. That debate cannot continue in full faith with so many questions about the legality of the federal recognition process and the land-in-trust process. The public debate needs to be informed on all the actions of Marshall and the tribe in their drive to federal recognition. We need your office to bring to light whatever may have been kept from public view.

The citizens of Massachusetts deserve a legal process they can trust. Glenn Marshall’s guilty pleas illuminate a process full of corruption. If guilty pleas to the serious charges of breaking campaign finance laws, tax fraud and embezzlement are not enough to suspend this process, what is? The citizens of Massachusetts should be able to feel confident in the legality and truthfulness of the Wampanoag’s claims, and clearly, these guilty pleas and very serious breaches of public trust cast doubt over the entire process.

We ask you to begin this investigation promptly, as the Bureau of Indian Affairs is already considering the land-in-trust petition from the Mashpee Wampanoag to include land in Middleboro as part of their ancestral homeland. Both the acceptance of land into trust and the legalization of class III gambling in Massachusetts are near irreversible acts. Before either of these occurs, we call on you to investigate more fully the actions of Glenn Marshall and his associates that lead us to this point. The public deserves a process free of illegal activity for something as serious as federal recognition of the Mashpee Wampanoag and the legalization of class III gambling in Massachusetts.

There are simply too many questions yet unresolved for this application to continue without further investigation. I would be happy to speak with you further if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Richard Young

President, Casino Free Mass

www.casinofreemass.org

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