

## Secretary of the Interior Salazar visits the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

Statement of Cedric Cromwell, Chairman, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe:

"We deeply appreciate Secretary Salazar's willingness to address the serious issues presented by the proposed location for the Cape Wind project. In particular, we are gratified that the Secretary took significant personal time to visit Mashpee today and learn first-hand about the religious cultural and historical significance of the proposed site to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

"We have repeatedly raised serious concerns over the proposed project for more than 6 years. For the first time, we believe that our concerns are being heard, and we look forward to continuing the process of consultation until an acceptable outcome has been achieved. This process is long overdue, and we thank Secretary Salazar and President Obama for their commitment to the rights of Native Americans.

"The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe has deep historical ties to this land dating back more than 12,000 years. Both state and federal officials have determined that the land is a traditional cultural property with cultural and religious significance to the Tribe. As a sovereign nation, we are afforded the right under Federal law to have our voice heard on decisions affecting our ancestral land. It is our expectation that as this process continues, our voice will be heard, and our concerns will be considered in any negotiated settlement."





