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All bets are off

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All bets are off

The recent ruling by the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has, as do all courts of law worthy of the name, laid down the law in what inevitably will be a very emotional and drawn-out struggle. While Indian tribes across the nation scramble to erect casinos under the auspices of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, Maine's own Passamaquoddy Tribe saw their proposal, to build a casino in Calais, shot down on grounds that it is illegal.

By letter, the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980, a document which the Passamaquoddy tribe signed, states that future law for the benefit of Indians would not apply in Maine "unless specifically made applicable." Eight years later the act which Congress passed did not include such specific language.

On Valentine's Day, the Passamaquoddy Tribe distributed \$739 to each man, women and child in the tribe. This money, part of the \$1.2 million the tribe generated this year in revenue from the land which they bought and acquired in the land settlement back in 1980, should stand as sufficient receipt of the concessions the state has already doled out. Further concessions only derail the idea of "One nation."

As citizens of this nation, the tribe should be held accountable to the same laws that apply to the nation as a whole and not be the beneficiaries of a system that rewards those who play up the discrimination motif.

Legislation founded on guilt will not aid the Passamaquoddy Tribe.
(M.L.Lane)