

To: Senator Anne Carney, Representative Matt Moonan And Members of the Judiciary Committee

From: Becky Layton Bartovics

Date: March 7, 2023

Re: LD 78 and LD 578 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to Article X of the Constitution of Maine Regarding the Publication of Maine Indian Treaty Obligations

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonan and Members of the Judiciary,  
It appears that LD 78 and LD 578 are identical in purpose. Therefore, it is assumed that they will become one resolution going forward. I am writing as an individual to support them and urge the Judiciary Committee to vote "ought to pass."

The first words in the Maine State Constitution are "We the people of Maine, in order to establish justice, insure tranquility, provide for our mutual defense, promote our common welfare, and secure to ourselves and our posterity the blessings of liberty." It is difficult to rectify those words and their intent with the arbitrary occlusion of the treaty documents of that Constitution, Article X Section 5, by a Governor who held office for only two years, Nelson Dingley.

The inherent invisibility of Article X, Section 5 has exacerbated a systemic treatment of the indigenous peoples who cared for the area we now call Maine for thousands of years prior to annexation by European ancestors. The hubris of our ancestors to assume ownership of these lands and subsequently renege on the promises made in treaty and on becoming a state are an embarrassment and an anachronism. It is high time that we begin to repair the damages done to the Peoples of the Dawn, whose care for this territory made colonization possible and to whom we owe a great deal.

The Rule of Law based on the Magna Carta in 1215, establishes that judgements are made based on written law, not arbitrary happenstance. Pretending, by not printing it, that the State of Maine did not agree to the treaty with the Indigenous peoples flies in the face of the basis of the Constitution. My grandson says this repair should have happened even before he was born, maybe even before I was. I agree! Please vote to pass LD78, LD578.

Respectfully submitted,

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