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LD 78

I first moved to Maine 18 years ago, and a few years later I was astonished to learn that there was a section of the state constitution that could not be included in written copies. Of course you already know that Article X, Section 5 clarifies Maine's obligation to uphold and defend treaties made between Massachusetts and the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot Nations. While the section remains in force and can be read online, an 1876 amendment prohibits their inclusion in printed versions of the constitution. Both LD 78 and LD 578 are amendments to the state constitution that would require that Section 5 be included in all printed copies of the constitution. I support both of these bills--first of all for the sake of basic historical clarity. Secondly, it would be another step toward healing the relationship between the state and the Wabanaki nations. Thirdly, the Wabanaki Alliance supports this action, and I am proud to count myself among the wider coalition of their supporters. As a retired minister, I try to support whatever can promote a healing and fair way to move forward with our co-existence in this beautiful place.