



Maine Coast Heritage Trust

A Statewide Land Conservation Organization

Testimony on LD 2004: An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary committee, my name is Jeff Romano. I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Maine Coast Heritage Trust in support of LD 2004.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust conserves and stewards Maine's coastal lands and islands for their renowned scenic beauty, ecological value, outdoor recreational opportunities, and contribution to community well-being. We provide statewide conservation leadership through our work with land trusts, coastal communities, and other partners. Over the past five decades, we have conserved more than 185,000 acres in Maine.

MCHT supports the principle of Wabanaki sovereignty embodied in LD 2004. Our position is grounded in more than 20 years of work with Wabanaki people on conservation of lands essential to the ecological health of the Maine Coast and the cultural traditions and a way of life that has sustained the Wabanaki for centuries.

We encourage the Committee to seek an outcome for Maine's federally recognized Tribes based on mutual respect and fairness.