

Naneen Chace-Ortiz  
Westbrook  
LD 2004

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Naneen Chace-Ortiz, and I am one of your constituents. I live in Westbrook, Maine and I'm writing in support of LD 2004.

As a Unitarian Universalist, I believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every human being and in justice, equity and compassion in human relations. I am writing in support of LD 2004: An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to Wabanaki Nations. LD 2004 would enable Wabanaki tribes in Maine to benefit from all federal laws passed to benefit tribes elsewhere, and would amend that portion of MICSA. I ask that you vote to pass LD 2004.

The Wabanaki tribes in Maine are treated differently than the other 570 federally recognized tribes across the country. Because of the 1980 Settlement Act, when Congress passes federal legislation for tribes nationwide the tribes in Maine must be explicitly written into the legislation, unlike the other federally recognized tribes. This is an excessive burden to the tribes. They do not have the resources to track all federal legislation and lobby Congress to have them included in each piece of legislation.

This legislation doesn't circumvent the 1980's Settlement Act. This legislation changes a provision in the Settlement Act that would at least begin the process of placing the tribes in Maine on the same footing as the other 570 federally recognized tribes.

Please support LD 2004 to start putting the tribes and rural Maine on a path to prosperity.

Thank you.