



January 9, 2024

Senator Joseph Rafferty, Chair
Representative Michael Brennan, Chair
Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
100 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: Testimony on LD 1642, “An Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools”

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and members of the joint standing committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

My name is Stacy Brown, and I serve as the Climate Educator for ReVision Energy. Founded right here in Maine twenty years ago, ReVision Energy is a local, employee owned, certified B Corporation clean energy construction company with over 460 employees across our five branches in New England, with 220 co-owners in Maine at our Montville and South Portland locations. Our mission is to make life better by building our just and equitable electric future. We carry out this work by installing tens of thousands of kilowatts of residential solar each year, in addition to constructing small scale commercial and community solar, as well as installing whole home electrification products including batteries, heat pumps, and EV chargers.

While many ReVision co-owners work daily designing and installing clean energy systems—my work looks a little bit different. After spending nearly two decades as a high school social studies teacher, I became interested in continuing my leadership in education outside the classroom and doubling down on working with young people to promote social and environmental justice. As luck would have it, ReVision was looking for a climate educator, and I jumped at the chance to work for a company whose mission aligns with my own values.

In 2023 alone, I worked with over 1,000 Maine students from Bangor to York on climate justice and workforce development topics. As you may know, the job opportunities in the green energy sphere provide an incredible promise of economic justice for young Mainers. A key element of my work includes inquiry, systems design, and place-based education that immerses students in local heritage culture, landscapes, and experiences. Studies have shown both climate and workforce development education, based on these concepts, have many positive impacts on students and teachers, including increased student engagement and a sense of personal efficacy as stewards of their local environment and community. LD1642 deepens this mission of quality education in Maine.

Today, therefore, we stand here in support of LD 1642, which, as you know, will strengthen the existing Wabanaki Studies Law by establishing a Commission and increasing resources for training to ensure Wabanaki studies are included in our state’s educational curriculum.

ReVision Energy inherently recognizes the relationship between environmentalism and social justice, as our mission is to truly build a better future by alleviating environmental and social injustices. Addressing both is vital for creating a more equitable and sustainable future for all. For that reason, we believe it is critically important to ensure that indigenous cultures are accurately represented and truthfully depicted in our state’s educational curriculum.



Teaching Wabanki Studies ensures young Mainers develop a true understanding and love of the place where they live. Indigenous students can see themselves and their experiences reflected in the curriculum. Non-indigenous students learn about multiple layers of humanistic experience and knowledge that will encourage them to consider viable alternative solutions to contemporary issues. This will help ensure the younger generations feel connected to where they live and are empowered to work toward solving the climate crisis, which is and will continue to impact their home environment, to help build our just and equitable electric future.

We respectfully ask you to pass LD 1642. Thank you for your consideration of our perspective. We welcome further discussion, and we are available to address any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Stacy Taylor Brown
Climate Educator
[ReVision Energy](#)

ReVision Energy Co-Owners in support of this testimony:

Jodi Satin, Westbrook
Gillian McLaughlin, South Portland
Caitlin Brooke, Palermo
Jackson Chadwick, Camden
Phoebe Hunt, Portland
Brooks Wood, Portland
Meg Joy, Thorndike
Zach Nugent, Portland
Andrew LaVogue, Westbrook
Dana Wilfahrt, Portland
Andrew Hikade, South Portland
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Katie Beane-Lewis, Steep Falls
Charles Hayward, Gorham
Joel Alder, Biddeford
Christopher McCabe, Biddeford
Kaitlyn Purcell, Monmouth
Sarah Clifford, Portland
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Hannah Haskell, Searsmont
Phil Coupe, Scarborough
Lindsay Bourgoine, Rockport