

Gillian McLaughlin
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LD 1642

Good afternoon, Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Gillian McLaughlin and I live in South Portland. Growing up on Wabanaki land, my elementary education was completely devoid of any local Indigenous studies. We learned about Sacajawea and tribes from the Pacific Northwest, but absolutely nothing about the local peoples whose land we were inhabiting - and certainly nothing about current Wabanaki traditions and issues. Enforcing Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools would enhance every child's education and create a more culturally aware generation here in Maine. Thank you for your consideration of my perspective, and I respectfully ask you to vote ought to pass on LD 1642