

Maine Climate Action **NOW!**

To: Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

From: Ezra Sassaman, Maine Climate Action Now

Date: January 18, 2023

Re: LD 1349: An Act to Review State Lands and Waterways That Have Sacred, Traditional or Other Significance to the Wabanaki People

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Black, and members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, my name is Ezra Sassaman. I am a resident of Bar Harbor and the Advocacy Coordinator for Maine Climate Action Now (MCAN), a statewide coalition of climate justice and youth-led organizations from across the state. We promote transformative education and grassroots solutions in response to pressing environmental challenges.

When combating the climate crisis, we need to simultaneously address the environmental injustices colonization has caused. Among the most destructive aspects of colonization is the erasure of the history, ancestral territories, and rights of Indigenous people.

MCAN stands in solidarity with the Penobscot Nation, the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and the Mi'kmaq Nation and recognizes there is no climate or environmental justice without the inclusion of the tribes. The Wabanaki Nations have a history of stewardship of natural resources and the land, and must have the right to manage the lands, waters, and resources they hold as sacred and traditionally significant.

Our coalition believes this legislation is a step in the right direction towards inclusive and lasting environmental justice. For the above reasons, our coalition urges you to vote "ought-to-pass" on LD 1349.

Ezra Sassaman
Maine Climate Action Now
LD 1349

To: Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

From: Ezra Sassaman, Maine Climate Action Now

Date: January 18, 2023

Re: LD 1349: An Act to Review State Lands and Waterways That Have Sacred, Traditional or Other Significance to the Wabanaki People

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Black, and members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, my name is Ezra Sassaman. I am a resident of Bar Harbor and the Advocacy Coordinator for Maine Climate Action Now (MCAN), a statewide coalition of climate justice and youth-led organizations from across the state. We promote transformative education and grassroots solutions in response to pressing environmental challenges.

When combating the climate crisis, we need to simultaneously address the environmental injustices colonization has caused. Among the most destructive aspects of colonization is the erasure of the history, ancestral territories, and rights of Indigenous people.

MCAN stands in solidarity with the Penobscot Nation, the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, and the Mi'kmaq Nation and recognizes there is no climate or environmental justice without the inclusion of the tribes. The Wabanaki Nations have a history of stewardship of natural resources and the land, and must have the right to manage the lands, waters, and resources they hold as sacred and traditionally significant.

Our coalition believes this legislation is a step in the right direction toward inclusive and lasting environmental justice. For the above reasons, our coalition urges you to vote "ought-to-pass" on LD 1349.