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Maine has long celebrated its connections to the natural world, and our abundant and varied ecosystems of the north woods, western mountains, and coastal regions. It is perhaps what Maine is most famous for. And yet, we continue as a state to overlook those who acted as stewards of the land for generations, and act as though those of us who have lived here (on stolen land) know how to better care for the land and its people's. Yet, data has shown that that is not the case. Children within Maine's indigenous communities are suffering at much higher rates than other Maine children, and the elders in their communities cannot take advantage of many of the policies set in place to protect them and their cultural heritage.

I urge you, as proud Mainers to take pride in all of Maine's history, and support LDL 2007 in giving Maine's indigenous peoples the sovereignty recognized by our National Government, and the respect they deserve as first peoples.