

Melani McGuire
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Good morning,

My testimony as a citizen of Maine and a learning white person is that it is past time that the Wabanaki Nations be recognized as a sovereign government. Maine government has held back the Wabanaki Nation from protecting tribal land rights and natural resources, preserving tribal sovereignty and self governance and carry out the legal mandates of federal Indian law that is held by all other federally recognized tribes. There is no justification or moral ground for the State of Maine's position.

In a global world where we as a state claim to be "for all people of the State of Maine", we need to exemplify what we say. The Wabanaki people are the original people of Maine, before white colonization, and we have taken and taken. Now it is time to support, include and stand beside our indigenous brothers and sisters.