

Jon Guzman
Orono, ME
LD 14
3/5/2025

To: Senators Bailey, Hickman, Tipping, and corresponding honorable members of the committee
From: Jon Carlos Guzman

Re: Testimony in support of LD 14, a resolution proposing *An Act to Provide Indigenous Peoples Free Access to State Parks*.

Hello, my name is Jon Guzman, and I am a resident of Orono, ME, currently attending the University of Maine. I am writing to you as a student, activist, and President of the Student Heritage Alliance Council (SHAC), a multicultural advisory board consisting of all the multicultural organizations on campus whose mission is to preserve and protect the heritage of the student body—but first I am a citizen that urges the vote for “ought to pass” on LD 14.

This act ensures that Indigenous peoples have access to the land that was rightfully theirs to begin with. It’s a payment to the ohmage of the past ancestral heritage of the land that the state claims to “own.” It would be nothing but disrespectful for the legislation of Maine to see revenue from the individuals they claim to acknowledge from a political standpoint. Land acknowledgment is nothing but a statement if not supported by equitable action to support the claim. It’s time we make the prerogative to ensure the indigenous peoples of Maine are not subjective to the majority but the minority we have yet to make amends with, as the past reflects nothing but a debt to the Indigenous peoples. Support and make sure that LD 14 - *An Act to Provide Indigenous Peoples Free Access to State Parks*, passes.

With Warm Regards,
Jon Carlos Guzman