

Heather Wyman  
Appleton  
LD 812

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Meyer, and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Heather Wyman and I live in Appleton. I am testifying in opposition to LD 812, An Act to Provide State Recognition of the Kineo St. John Tribe.

LD 812 seeks to bypass the federal recognition process established by the Office of Federal Acknowledgement within the Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs. Leaders of the federally recognized Wabanaki Nations believe that this federal process should be the one to determine whether a group merits recognition.

I support the Wabanaki people of Maine who still seek the same rights and protections of the 570 federally recognized tribes in this country. I believe it is high time to restore sovereignty to the Wabanaki people, and I believe LD 812 hampers the tribes' ongoing efforts to negotiate an amendment to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

Heather Wyman