

Dale Lolar  
Indian Island  
LD 1474

As a Wabanaki elder, I am requesting your support of LD 1474. Since LD 291 was passed requiring Wabanaki Studies to be taught in all Maine schools, I have been approached by teacher friends who were struggling to develop some sort of curriculum and find the confidence to present this information in class. As just one Wabanaki citizen, especially one without a background in education, it is hard to provide all who ask with the support they need. I was pleased to learn last year that this was finally being formally addressed, as the new role of Wabanaki Studies Specialist at the DOE is being held by a Wabanaki citizen who is more than qualified for the job. A strong system has been developed through the collaborative efforts between the State of Maine and a growing number of Wabanaki experts and educators, who have been working together to create classroom materials as well as free microcourses for all educators to build their knowledge of Wabanaki Studies. Now, a weekly lecture series for the benefit teachers and educators has transpired. I have attended most of the presentations and have been delighted to witness the inspiring content presented. I am thrilled by the thought that this can continue and ask that you support this bill, LD 1474.

Sincerely,  
Dale Lolar LADC, MHRT (retired)