

Jennifer Galipeau
INDIAN ISLAND
LD 1474

To: Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

From: Jennifer Galipeau, Indian Island, ME

Date: 4-18-2025

RE: Testimony in support LD 1474: An Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools

I am writing as a citizen of the Penobscot Nation to express my support for LD 1474: An Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools.

This bill is a necessary step to ensure that the history, culture, and contemporary presence of Wabanaki people are taught accurately and consistently across Maine public schools. Many schools still lack the resources, training, or guidance to meaningfully integrate Wabanaki Studies into their curriculum. The critical components of LD 1474 is the recognition of Wabanaki expertise. The bill ensures that Wabanaki advisors and content specialists are actively involved in the development and delivery of Wabanaki Studies.

Wabanaki Studies should not be treated as an add-on or a box to check. With proper support and guidance—especially from Wabanaki educators and knowledge sharers—this curriculum can help all students in Maine understand the place they live, the original care takers of this land, and the living cultures that continue to shape our shared future.

As a Penobscot person, I believe all students in Maine deserve to learn the full history of this place—including the histories and contributions of the Wabanaki Nations.

Doing so fosters respect, understanding, and a more accurate view of our past and present.

I urge you to pass LD 1474.