

Mary Miller
Oakfield
LD 1474

To the members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee:

I am writing in support of LD 1474, "An Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools." I believe this bill is critical in order to implement well Maine law requiring Wabanaki studies as part of school curricula throughout the state. By providing funding for teacher professional development as well as for activities and resources, it facilitates, in real ways, the teaching of this important subject. And by creating a Wabanaki Studies Specialist as a permanent position in the Dept. of Education, it ensures that Maine does not lose sight of this valuable teaching. Wabanaki studies benefits all of Maine's students, giving them the history, perspective, cultural values and current life and work of Maine's first peoples, as well as understandings of justice and political awareness regarding Wabanaki communities. I urge the support of LD 1474, to strengthen this significant aspect of education of Maine's students. Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Miller
Oakfield, Maine