

Ariel Morgan
Palermo
LD 1474

Dear Committee members,

Over the last two years, as a graduate student at the College of the Atlantic, it has been my privilege and pleasure to learn from Wabanaki leaders and educators. Their knowledge has deepened my appreciation for this landscape, the ecology which surrounds and supports us all, and the deep history of people who have always been part of it. I can only hope that that same gift might be extended to all students in Maine by expanding support within the Maine Department of Education for high quality Wabanaki studies in Maine schools. This is already the law, but it is clear that an unfunded mandate does not provide educators with the resources they need to do justice to this important content. I urge you to support this bill in order to strengthen the excellent work that is already happening to provide just this kind of needed support, and to ensure that Wabanaki knowledge keepers are consulted and compensated as part of this process.