

William Hathaway
Rockland
LD 339

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,
My name is William N. Hathaway, and I am a long time educator and I live in Rockland, Maine.

I am testifying in support of L.D. 1474, "An Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools," because Indigenous populations steward over 80% of the world's biodiversity - biodiversity that keeps our planet functioning through diverse and overlapping species and systems that Western science is still trying to understand, and when it does, it comes down in support of Indigenous science.

Let us not forget that we are on unceded lands in what is now called maine, and we got here through policies of funded genocide, such as the Phips Proclamation of 1755 which placed bounties on Indigenous scalps of men, women, and even children. We owe it to ourselves and to the Wabanaki to acknowledge these injustices committed in a time before accountability (other than in the spiritual sense) and which likely never be addressed with any real reciprocity.

For these reasons, I respectfully encourage you to support L.D. 1474. Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,
William N. Hathaway