

Kerry Read  
South Paris  
LD 1474

Senator Joseph Rafferty, Representative Kelly Noonan Murphy and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,

My name is Kerry Read, I live in South Paris and I am a member of the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network and Wabanaki Alliance Coalition. I am testifying in support of LD 1474.

24 years after the the State of Maine recognized the necessity and responsibility to include Wabanaki Studies in all of Maine's schools curriculums, our students are still being deprived of this crucial knowledge. Teachers are still not given the training and resources to implement Wabanaki history, culture, science and arts into their lesson plans. Wabanaki Studies has remained a well intentioned and empty promise.

It is way past time to implement the Wabanaki Studies Law. A meaningful first step for Maine will be to create the permanent Wabanaki Studies Specialist position and to ensure proper compensation for Wabanaki advisors working on curriculum and teacher development. By providing the funding to implement this and the other "Wabanaki voice forward" requirements and directions of LD 1474, the State of Maine can begin to meet it's commitment and responsibility for providing this essential education to it's next generations. I urge you to vote, ought to pass, on LD 1474