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Portland  
LD 1474

I am writing in favor of LD 1474.

First and foremost, it is already established Maine law that Wabanaki studies be included in the curriculum. This bill makes it possible to follow through on this commitment.

My own two kids are in the Portland Public School system, which has had pretty good adoption of the Wabanaki studies curriculum. They come home to tell me about the positive cultural values they've learned about, the great outdoor education experiences, the incredibly significant fact that they know Indigenous people have lived here for a very long time, AND still live here today.

This is such important work as we strive to decolonize our society and make this corner of the world a better, more fair and inclusive place for everyone. Not only does learning Wabanaki past and present help to set right past wrongs, it makes learning a more engaging, meaningful experience for all students.

Growing up in Texas, I had none of this. Absolutely no understanding of past or ongoing Indigenous history, culture, art, science in that part of the world. I want better for my kids, and all the kids in Maine.

Thank you for taking my testimony.