

Marita Kennedy-Castro
Portland
LD 1474

Dear Committee Members and Maine Representatives,

I am writing today to ask you to support LD 1474 - An Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools.

The importance of including the history of the people of this land can not be overstated. When we know the truth of our collective human past, we are able to make educated, wise, compassionate decisions about our present and our future. When we learn about the full history of land and people it informs the way we treat the earth and waters, and the decisions we make about their care that last will long into the future.

With so much of our collective human history being withheld from public education, we wind up with uneducated masses making uninformed decisions about how we care for one another and the earth. This results in degradation and destruction of the planet as well as our relationships with one another.

LD 1474 ensures that curriculum is developed by contracted Wabanaki advisors working with a Wabanaki Studies Specialist to ensure accurate educational materials are made available to school teachers around the state. It ensures these positions are funded now to ensure long-term success.

It is time for Maine to catch up with many other states around the nation, ensuring our teachers and children have access to an accurate and expanded education regarding the indigenous people's of this land. Ensuring that our Wabanaki Studies programs are informed by Wabanaki Specialists and advisors will truly serve all of us for generations to come.

Thank you for your vote to pass LD 1474.

Kind regards,