

Kimberly Nunlist
East Machias
LD 1474

I'm writing to voice strong support for this bill, not just because teaching Wabanaki studies in Maine schools is the law, but because fulfilling the requirements of that law will equip students with knowledge that will be essential to the future health and prosperity of the students themselves, our state, and our nation.

Our state is already dealing with the effects of rising sea levels, increased storm damage, and the erosion of social cohesion. We have already seen how collaborations between University of Maine scientists and Wabanaki scientists can expand our knowledge base by orders of magnitude in ways that also support practical problem-solving. LD 1474 would set today's students up to collaborate effectively in response to the grand challenges of our time, including natural resource stewardship and conflict resolution.

With LD 1474, the permanent DOE position, compensation for Wabanaki advisor, and resources for communities and teachers would support high-quality curriculum instruction and improved performance on state standards in these important areas. Please continue to advance this bill out of committee, to the governor's desk, and into law.