

Brenda Franey
South Portland
LD 395

February 14, 2026

TO: The Committee on Judiciary

REGARDING: LD 395 An Act To Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to
Wabanaki Nations

I am writing in support of LD 395. Due to restrictions from the 1980 Settlement Act, currently Wabanaki Nations must specifically be written into federal laws in order to receive benefits. LD 395 will update the Settlement Act so that Wabanaki Nations (including the Mi'kmaq Nation) can benefit from existing and future federal laws that benefit all the other federally recognized tribal nations in the United States. The tribal nations in Maine are the only ones who have to deal with this significant hurdle.

Laws are not static things! They are ever evolving and adapting over time. It is definitely time for Maine to update the 1980 Settlement Act so that our tribal nations and the rural communities near them, can receive the benefits from federal laws.

Thank you for your consideration and service.

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