

LD395, sponsored by Senator Ross Talbot.

When enacted, LD395 will be a huge victory for the Wabanaki people and for Maine. It has been a disgrace to the State of Maine that this legislative battle has gone on for so long. The benefits which will become available to the Wabanaki and Mi'kmaq nations will put them on an equal footing with all federally recognized tribes, FINALLY.

How many Mainers are aware of the 1980 'treaty' which was instrumental in creating the third world conditions in which Wabanaki people now live? I am personally shocked by the continued subjugation of the Wabanaki people considering the national wave of contrition for the shameless land theft and extermination of our colonialist history. Other states are doing better at this.

I am a person of faith, and I am active in the justice movements of my church, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick. Our core values have Love at their center. Justice and Equity are the values which inspire to advocate for the deprived, marginalized indigenous people in our state. As a faith community, UUCB keeps the Wabanaki and their plight at the forefront of our services and activism. We have partnered with Wabanaki organizations because we know that we are stronger together.

We have a big debt to pay, and passing LD395 will be a big step towards paying it. I urge you to support this bill.

With great respect,

Jill Scherer

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Bowdoin
LD 395

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