

Leslie Kaynor  
Portland  
LD 785

I am writing to express my strong support of LD 785 – An Act to Enact Recommendations on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act. For the past three years I have been a member of the Wabanaki Ally Team at First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church in Portland. I knew something about the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act, but over these past years my comprehension has deepened. Through listening to Wabanaki speakers, watching Wabanaki films, attending relevant workshops, participating in discussions and growing relationships with our Wabanaki neighbors, I have been gaining an understanding about how this settlement act has negatively impacted our Maine tribes. It has unfairly constricted and limited them, economically, legally and culturally. The settlement act has kept them under the heavy thumb of our state government, not allowing them to be a sovereign entity. I urge you to pass this bill to help rectify this situation. Thank you for your work and for representing all Mainers.

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