

My name is Caron Chess. I am a resident of Peaks Island and am testifying in support of LD785.

As I said in my testimony for LD 395, my Jewish identity compels me to support the Wabanaki. The genocide of the Jews took place over four years and is labelled a crime against humanity.

The genocide of the Wabanaki has occurred over hundreds of years. It is easier to escape notice so most Maine residents have no understanding of what we have done and are doing to the tribes.

However, the results are well-documented. I believe LD 785 is a step towards a recognition of our own responsibility. Also, as demonstrated in other states, there are possibilities for effective collaboration when we deal with the tribes as equals.

In addition, I believe many Maine residents will benefit from the economic boost likely to come with increased self-governance by the Wabanaki. Also, as demonstrated in other states, there are possibilities for economic improvement of tribes and surrounding communities when we deal with the tribes as equals.

For all these reasons, I believe the State of Maine has a moral imperative and an economic incentive to help restore the Wabanaki peoples' sovereignty and right to self-determination, and I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 785.

Thank you.

Caron Chess

Peaks Island, 04108