

Ella Tabasky
Brunswick
LD 785

To: Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on
Judiciary

From: Ella D. Tabasky, Brunswick

Re: Support for LD 785, An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki
Nations

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Committee,

I'm writing to urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 785.

For more than 40 years, restrictions embedded in the 1980 Maine Indian Claims
Settlement Act have prevented the Wabanaki Nations from accessing federal
self-determination policies that have helped more than 570 tribes create thousands of
jobs and generate hundreds of millions in economic activity.

The consequences are clear and measurable: while tribal income outside of Maine has
grown by 61% since 1989, Wabanaki income has increased by only 9%, far below
Maine's overall growth of 25%.

Maine has the power to change this disparity.

LD 785 represents a thoughtful and necessary step toward fairness, stability, and
respect for tribal sovereignty. Advancing self-determination is not only about
economic opportunity, but it is about ensuring that Wabanaki communities have the
same tools available to shape their own futures, protect their lands and waters, and
strengthen their cultures for generations to come.

Maine has an opportunity to move forward in partnership rather than continue
operating under a framework that isolates Wabanaki Nations from the progress seen
across Indian Country.

Passing LD 785 would help align state law with modern federal policy and
demonstrate a commitment to equity, collaboration, and long-term prosperity for all
who call this place home.

Thank you for your consideration.

[[sEP]]Ella D. Tabasky[[sEP]]
Brunswick