

Meredith Bruskin  
Swanville  
LD 395

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

As you know, LD 395 has broad bipartisan support as well as very broad citizen support, and was actually passed by the legislature previously but sadly and incomprehensibly, vetoed by Governor Mills. It will address 40 years of missed opportunities by the Wabanaki nations, excluding them from at least 151 federal laws which they should be able to benefit from. These would provide access to critical resources that will help not only the tribal communities but the greater Maine rural communities as well. I am sure you have been given the details of laws such as the Stafford Act, the Violence Against Women Act, Indian Healthcare Improvement Act, and Environmental Protection Laws that will allow them to assume primary regulatory authority for federal environmental programs on their lands. This can be literally life saving assistance, and you have the ability to ensure that the Wabanaki peoples are treated equally under the law, to all 570 other recognised Tribes in the nation, and to all other Mainers! I cannot emphasise how important your support to pass LD 395 is. Do the right thing, again. And hold on even if a super majority is needed to accomplish what we all know is right. You will feel proud to make this overdue decision, I know it. Please vote ought to pass on LD 395. Thank you for your consideration.