

Naomi Lopez  
Brunswick  
LD 395

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Committee on Judiciary,  
My name is Naomi Lopez, and I am a student living in Midcoast Maine. I am  
testifying in strong support of LD 395, which I believe is an overdue and necessary  
step to ensuring that the Wabanaki are entitled to the same laws as all other federally  
recognized tribes. This act, in effect, would help correct decades of injustice that have  
denied the Wabanaki from claiming basic rights (guaranteed by federal laws)  
concerning their financial and land sovereignty. For instance, Wabanaki communities  
have been blocked from accessing the rights prescribed to them in The Clean Water  
Act and Clean Air Act, preventing them from protecting the natural systems which  
they have stewarded for centuries. This has led to present day environmental  
injustices in Wabanaki communities and rural towns throughout our state. I strongly  
urge you to support this bill – a key step in ensuring that the Wabanaki are guaranteed  
the rights awarded to all other indigenous groups nationally.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Naomi