

Erica Dubois
Bangor
LD 395

Dear Members of the Committee,

I have had the pleasure of hearing one of the authors of the 2022 report by the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development speak about the report's findings, and the conclusion could not be more clear: federally recognized tribes in Maine have been hurt by jurisdictional barriers created by language in the Settlement Act that was very poorly contemplated. Tribal communities have suffered forty years of missed opportunities, and as both parties in the Maine legislature agreed in 2023, it is time to right this wrong and make LD 395 into law. Members of federally recognized tribes in Maine are our neighbors, and when they have more opportunities to prosper and determine their own futures, so do we all.
Thank you for your time.