

To: Committee on Judiciary

From: Norma R. Marshall,
Dennysville, Maine,
Passamaquoddy Tribal Member

Date: 2/18/2026

RE: Testimony in support of LD 395, "An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations"

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

My name is Norma "Randi" Marshall, and I am a Wabanaki artist and Passamaquoddy Tribal Member of Sipayik and I live downeast in Dennysville, Maine.

I am testifying in support of the bill **LD 395**, "An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations," because I believe this bill would be beneficial to all Maine citizens by a series of events,

- This bill would support the Wabanaki Nations, (Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, Houlton Band of Maliseets, and Mi'kmaq) with updated language to the Settlements Act between the State of Maine and the tribes within;
- this matters because current language from the State of Maine prohibits Wabanaki Nations from utilizing laws and rights that have been granted to *all* of the Federally recognized Tribes, of which the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation, the Houlton Band of Maliseets and the Mi'kmaq Nation are federally recognized,

- because the federal language in federal Indian laws do not specifically list the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation, the Houlton Band of Maliseets, and Mi'kmaq Nation, these laws are blocked to the Wabanaki Nations in Maine if they "affect or preempt" Maine law. MICSA and Maine Implementing Act were ratified in 1980, and since 1980, Congress has enacted more than 150 federal laws for the benefit of tribal nations which Wabanaki Nations only have been allowed to experience one, the Violence Against Women Act. Your support here matters as we evolve as people and realize that the Wabanaki Nations need your help to receive the rights they should be afforded.
- This bill does specify however that Wabanaki nations are still subject to state gaming laws and has included the Mi'kmaq Nation in identical language of the tribes within the document to participate in state gaming laws, who were not originally involved in the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Acts. An important addition as it would contribute to the economy of this Nation and would contribute to the state per their regulations. Another great outcome.
- With your support of this bill, this would allow the Tribes the opportunity to be uplifted economically with expanded access to policies, programs, and funding that contribute to self-governance and economic opportunities,
- These new potential economic opportunities for Wabanaki Nations and Citizens would reflect in the regions they reside and more broadly within the state of Maine, with Native businesses on the rise supporting the creation of goods and services they dream to offer, the potential creation of jobs and employment of Wabanaki people and other citizens of Maine, and the economic growth spent back into the communities of Maine. This is important to me as I am from a very rural area on the coast, the edge of America, and now more than ever we need economic growth and ability to support our area. And what better way to lend the ability and support to the idea of the "American Dream."
- In addition, support of this bill would help Wabanaki Nations culturally as they would be given the ability to oversee and manage their own

territories in responsible and culturally considerate ways, which if you have been following the story of the Alewives, you would know that this is proof of taking care of the different beings around us to benefit us all. It is our responsibility to care for and consider the treatment of the land, waters, animals, plants, and air that holds us.

- This bill has bipartisan support, which is a testament of people coming together to support and uplift Wabanaki Nations, who have been living in poverty for many years because of blocked opportunities by current State Laws. We all come from different backgrounds but as time progresses, we will all still be going forward together, so what better way to show your support of the Wabanaki Nations who have endured much to just exist in this world where they originated from.

For these reasons, I respectfully encourage you to support **LD 395**. Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Norma Randi Marshall

Norma Marshall
Dennysville
LD 395

I attached a file but just in case:

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From: Norma R. Marshall,
Dennysville, Maine,
Passamaquoddy Tribal Member
Date: 2/18/2026

RE: Testimony in support of LD 395, "An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations"

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For these reasons, I respectfully encourage you to support LD 395. Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Norma Randi Marshall