

February 18, 2026

TO: The Committee on Judiciary

REGARDING: Public Hearing on LD 785

I am writing in support of LD 785 – An Act to Enact Recommendations on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act.

I believe we owe the passage of this act to the Wabanaki Nations – a nation denied sovereign rights and powers enjoyed by 570 other federally recognized tribes in the United States.

It's time for Maine to raise the bar for our indigenous neighbors and implement the recommendations reached by a bipartisan task force in 2020 tasked to review the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement law's effectiveness.

Thank you for your service to the state of Maine and for your work on this important issue.

Deena Hastings

Portland