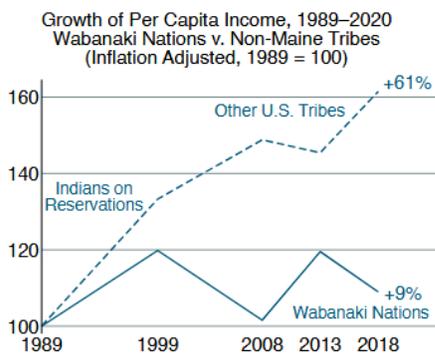


February 18, 2026

Dear Chair Carney, Chair Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing to express my strong support for LD 395, *An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations*.

For decades, the Wabanaki Nations have been excluded from laws benefitting all other federally-recognized tribes, including the Stafford Act, Environmental Protection laws, the Violence Against Women Act, and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. The [2022 report by the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development](#) paints a damning picture of the consequences of this exclusion.



"As a result [of MICSAs], the development of the Wabanaki Nations' economies and governmental capacities have been stunted. Today, all four of the tribes in Maine—Maliseet, Mi'kmaq, Passamaquoddy, and Penobscot—are stark economic underperformers relative to the other tribes in the Lower 48 states. The subjugation of the Wabanaki Nation's self-governing capacities is blocking economic development to the detriment of both tribal and non-tribal citizens, alike" (Kalt et al., 2022, p. i).

LD 395 is a bipartisan bill that would benefit both tribal and non-tribal citizens. It is also simply the right thing to do. Non-Indigenous Mainers must recognize that our government still has immense harm to repair before it/we can build equal, trusting, reciprocal relationships with Wabanaki Nations. We must respect the needs, desires, and voices of co-sponsor and committee member Representative Dana, the Wabanaki Alliance, and other official and unofficial leaders of the Wabanaki Nations. Recognizing and protecting Wabanaki Nations' sovereignties should be our State government's top priority.

Please vote "ought to pass" on LD 395 (and LD 785).

Sincerely,

Hadriane Hatfield

South Portland