

## Tribal Sovereignty Testimony

To: Sen. Carney, Rep Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

From: Susan Levene, Phippsburg, 04562

Re: Support for LD 785, An act to Advance Self-determination for the Wabanaki Nations

I hope you decide to support this legislation to give more autonomy and determination to the Wabanaki People who make their home within our state borders.

### Key Points:

- The state of Maine has been a poor steward for the Wabanaki People whether it is years of unhealthy water at Pleasant Point or the more historic horrors at Malaga Island here in Phippsburg, we need to recognize that our state beauracracy has been a lousy partner to the Wabanaki People.
- The legacy agreement has not aged well and is problematic for both the Wabanaki People and everyone who lives in our state. Giving autonomy to Native Peoples is the right path to move toward healing for our nation's horrific crimes against humanity again the People who made the land we love their home long before any of our ancestors emigrated here.
- No agreement is perfect, but this is a way forward supported by the Wabanaki People and we should all stand with them in solidarity and get this done.

Thank you all for your service to our state. Let's acknowledge the rights of the Native Peoples we share our lands with and give them the legal protections we have always promised, but seem to always come up short.

Sincerely,

Susan Levene

Phippsburg