

Cynthia Marten
South Portland
LD 785

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Committee of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Cynthia Marten and I am a resident of South Portland Maine and I am testifying in support of LD785 , An Act to Enact the Remaining Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act. I moved to Maine from Iowa in October 2023 and have been very surprised by the Wabanki situation in Maine. My understanding is that Maine retains broad legal and regulatory control over tribal lands with State oversight. This often acts as a barrier to economic development. The Wabanaki have very different laws and recognitions from other tribes in the United States and therefore have experienced lower economic opportunities. It is time to recognize their sovereignty and protect their rights for them to thrive on their land and in their communities.