

Jason Grundstrom-Whitney
Monmouth
LD 395

Dear Friends,

I am writing in support of LD 395 An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations.

This law would allow the Wabanaki Nations to have the same access to Federal Laws that benefit 570 other federally recognized tribes across the U.S. Currently the tribes must be explicitly written into each federal law to benefit from it. Under LD 395 there would be no restriction on access.

These Federal Laws are crucial for funding to help tribes with varying issues from emergency services and crisis management funding, Indian Health Care Improvement and EPA Laws. These are but a few opportunities the Wabanaki Nations have missed given the archaic nature of the current law under the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act.

I write not only as the law is right and just for the Wabanaki Nations, but it is this writer's belief that in not having Wabanaki Nations the ability to have access to these federal laws that we are fundamentally as a State committing egregious human rights violations.

We can all agree that Federal funds are important to the general welfare of the State and Nation. To collectively withhold access to laws and funding, is morally, civilly and contemptibly wrong.

On a final note, I have worked with Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness and have seen firsthand in the myriad positive ways these laws would benefit the Wabanaki Nations and people. I also have family with the Passamaquoddy and feel that Sovereignty Bills to modernize the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement are important and long overdue.

Jason Grundstrom-Whitney
Wabanaki Alliance
37 Mikes Road
Monmouth, Maine
04259
207-330-8020