

Beth Clifford  
Perry  
LD 395

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

From: Beth Clifford, 181 Leach Point Road, Perry, Maine 04667

Re: Support for LD 395, An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the  
Wabanaki Nations

Date: February 18, 2026

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

My name is Beth Clifford, and I live in Perry. I am submitting testimony in support of LD 395. LD 395 would modernize the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA) and the Aroostook Band of Micmacs Settlement Act so that the Wabanaki Nations can benefit from most existing and future federal laws that apply to the other 570 federally recognized tribes. The legislation also extends to the Mi'kmaq Nation.

Over the past 40 years, the Wabanaki nations have been blocked from at least 151 federal laws that would have positively impacted the tribal nations. These laws have included environmental protection laws, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA). With the passage of LD 395, Wabanaki nations will be able to take advantage of federal self-determination policies, programs, and funding that elsewhere in Indian Country have led to the creation of thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in goods and services produced by Native businesses.

Thank you, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, for your thoughtful consideration of this critically important legislation. Please vote for the passage of LD 395. This law will finally remove unfair barriers that Wabanaki nations have been facing since the passage of MISCAs in 1980.

Sincerely,  
Beth E. Clifford