



Testimony to the Judiciary Committee's Public Hearing on: LD395 An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations

Senator Rachel Talbot Ross, Representative Aaron M Dana, Senator Richard A. Bennett, Senator Matthew A. Harrington, Senator Marianne Moore, Senator Anne M. Carney, Representative Billy Bob Faulkingham; Representative Adam R. Lee, Representative Amy D. Kuhn, Senator Joseph E. Martin, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kathy Woodside, a resident of Bar Harbor. I am submitting testimony as an At-Large Member of the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ Social Action Committee and as a delegate to the Sunrise Association UCC and the Maine Conference UCC. I am writing in support of LD395.

“Since enacting the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act and the Maine Implementing Act in 1980, “differing interpretations of the Acts have caused disagreements between the State and the tribal nations and have negatively affected the Wabanaki Communities and hindered their ability to exercise tribal sovereignty for the benefit of their people”¹.

“In 2019 the 129th Legislature of the State of Maine appointed a Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act that, in its final report of January 2020, offered twenty-two “consensus recommendations” to improve the Act (a consensus recommendation being a recommendation supported by “representatives of the Tribe or Tribes affected by the suggested changes and a majority of the other voting members of the task force”²).” “The consensus recommendations³ address the following objectives:

- Affirming tribes’ rights to regulate hunting, fishing, land use and other natural resource activities.
- Formally recognizing tribal courts’ jurisdiction over certain crimes committed on tribal lands, including in cases of non-Indians accused of domestically abusing Indians on tribal lands.
- Enabling tribes to tax non-members on tribal lands and exempting members from the state income tax for money earned on tribal lands, as allowed under federal law. Allowing tribes to operate casinos with table games and slot machines under a “compact” negotiated between tribal leaders, the state and the U.S. Department of the Interior.”

All but two of the recommendations were unanimous.

In 2022 the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ adopted a Resolution entitled: “A Resolution of Support for Tribal Sovereignty in Maine. The Resolution states that we stand in favor of: reparations for past harms; restoration of sovereign tribal lands, life, and culture; and always supporting the expressed will of the tribes on matters of tribal sovereignty; and that the Maine Conference supports the consensus recommendations in the January 2020 report of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act”⁴.

It is time that these recommendations become law and that the peoples of the Wabanaki Nations are no longer excluded when Congress passes federal legislation for tribes nationwide, as they have been at least 151 times in the past 40 years. The passage of LD395 and other legislation before the Maine Legislature related to the Wabanaki Peoples of Maine is long overdue.

Submitted by,
Katheen C. Woodside
Maine Conference United Church of Christ
Social Action Committee, At Large Member
Bar Harbor Resident

¹ House Paper 1307, Joint Order, Establishing the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (129th Maine State Legislature, accessed July 5, 2022. http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/bills_129th/billpdfs/HP130701.pdf).

² Task Force on Changes to the Maine ² Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act (Final Report, January 2020, accessed July 5, 2022. <https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/3815>).

³ Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act (Final Report, January 2020, accessed July 5, 2022, <https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/3815>).

⁴ A Resolution of Support for Tribal Sovereignty in Maine; submitted by the Social Action Committee and Anti-Racism Resource Team of the Maine Conference United Church of Christ, <https://www.maineucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Tribal-Sovereignty-Resolution-Maine-UCC-10-15-22.pdf>.

Katheen Woodside
Bar Harbor
LD 395

Testimony to the Judiciary Committee's Public Hearing on: LD395 An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations

Senator Rachel Talbot Ross, Representative Aaron M Dana, Senator Richard A. Bennett, Senator Matthew A. Harrington, Senator Marianne Moore, Senator Anne M. Carney, Representative Billy Bob Faulkingham; Representative Adam R. Lee, Representative Amy D. Kuhn, Senator Joseph E. Martin, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kathy Woodside, a resident of Bar Harbor. I am submitting testimony as an At-Large Member of the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ Social Action Committee and as a delegate to the Sunrise Association UCC and the Maine Conference UCC. I am writing in support of LD395.

“Since enacting the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act and the Maine Implementing Act in 1980, “differing interpretations of the Acts have caused disagreements between the State and the tribal nations and have negatively affected the Wabanaki Communities and hindered their ability to exercise tribal sovereignty for the benefit of their people”¹.

“In 2019 the 129th Legislature of the State of Maine appointed a Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act that, in its final report of January 2020, offered twenty-two “consensus recommendations” to improve the Act (a consensus recommendation being a recommendation supported by “representatives of the Tribe or Tribes affected by the suggested changes and a majority of the other voting members of the task force”².” “The consensus recommendations³ address the following objectives:

- Affirming tribes’ rights to regulate hunting, fishing, land use and other natural resource activities.
- Formally recognizing tribal courts’ jurisdiction over certain crimes committed on tribal lands, including in cases of non-Indians accused of domestically abusing Indians on tribal lands.
- Enabling tribes to tax non-members on tribal lands and exempting members from the state income tax for money earned on tribal lands, as allowed under federal law. Allowing tribes to operate casinos with table games and slot machines under a “compact” negotiated between tribal leaders, the state and the U.S. Department of the Interior.”

All but two of the recommendations were unanimous.

In 2022 the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ adopted a Resolution entitled: “A Resolution of Support for Tribal Sovereignty in Maine. The Resolution states that we stand in favor of: reparations for past harms; restoration of sovereign tribal lands, life, and culture; and always supporting the expressed will of the tribes on matters of tribal sovereignty; and that the Maine Conference supports the consensus recommendations in the January 2020 report of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act”⁴.

It is time that these recommendations become law and that the peoples of the Wabanaki Nations are no longer excluded when Congress passes federal legislation for tribes nationwide, as they have been at least 151 times in the past 40 years. The passage of LD395 and other legislation before the Maine Legislature related to the Wabanaki Peoples of Maine is long overdue.

Submitted by,
Katheen C. Woodside
Maine Conference United Church of Christ
Social Action Committee, At Large Member
Bar Harbor Resident

1 House Paper 1307, Joint Order, Establishing the Task Force on Changes to the

Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (129th Maine State Legislature, accessed July 5, 2022.

http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/bills_129th/billpdfs/HP130701.pdf).

2 Task Force on Changes to the Maine 2 Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act (Final Report, January 2020, accessed July 5, 2022.

<https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/3815>.

3 Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act (Final Report, January 2020, accessed July 5, 2022,

<https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/3815>.

4 A Resolution of Support for Tribal Sovereignty in Maine; submitted by the Social Action Committee and Anti-Racism Resource Team of the Maine Conference United Church of Christ,

<https://www.maineucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Tribal-Sovereignty-Resolution-Maine-UCC-10-15-22.pdf>.