

Suzanne Jean
Gouldsboro
LD 785

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

I am writing in support of LD 785, An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations. While this bill attempts to remove barriers that were put in place by the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA), I would respectfully ask this committee to keep in mind the larger historical context that is the backdrop for our current situation. Two different cultures meeting with very different worldviews. The European colonists focused on owning and using the land and resources for economic gain. The Wabanaki Nations living on the land for thousands of years in an intentional way to protect resources for future generations. The colonists did not truly recognize the sovereignty of the Wabanaki Nations, nor their knowledge and stewardship of the land. Let us not repeat the mistakes of the past. Instead, let us acknowledge the sovereignty of the Wabanaki Nations to self-determination, and together as neighbors, work toward our mutual prosperity. Vote Ought to Pass on LD 785.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
Suzanne Jean