

Kerry Read
South Paris
LD 395

Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Kerry Read and I live in South Paris. I am testifying in support of LD 395. I testify as a person of faith, member of the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network and Wabanaki Alliance. My faith calls me to strive for a world in which justice, equity and the inherent worth and dignity of all people are recognized and promoted. The Wabanaki Nations have suffered under the oppressive exclusions of the Settlement Acts for over 40 years. While federally recognized tribes across the nation have benefited from programs and funding to support their social and economic development, Wabanaki Nations have been denied opportunity and resources. LD 395 puts the Wabanaki Nations on equal footing with all other federally recognized tribes. The devastating economic impacts of the existing disparity have been well documented in the Harvard Project. Modernizing the Settlement Act will bring money and resources to the Wabanaki Nations and their rural neighbors. Passing LD 395 not only makes sense from an economic standpoint; it is the moral and ethical "Right" thing to do. No one wins or everyone wins. Which do you choose? Please vote ought to pass on LD 395.