

Ann Dodd-Collins
Portland
LD 785

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in support of LD 785, "An Act to Enact the Remaining Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act".

The "1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act" was supposed to be a living document subject to change as we learned what did and did not work and unanticipated consequences became clear. Instead, the State has balked at every attempt to modernize the agreement and refused to acknowledge the sovereignty of the Wabanaki Nations.

For 40 years, restrictions in the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA) have blocked the Wabanaki Nations from accessing all of the federal self-determination policies that helped 570 other tribes create thousands of jobs and generate hundreds of millions in economic activity. This has hurt not only the people who have cared for the land we now call Maine for thousands of years, it has also hurt the rural areas surrounding Tribal communities. It is long past time to correct the injustices of the Settlement Act.

I urge you to vote "Ought To Pass" on LD 785.

Sincerely,
Ann Dodd-Collins
Portland ME