

Ann Dodd-Collins
Portland
LD 395

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

I am writing in support of LD 395, “An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations”.

Of the 575 federally recognized tribes in the United States, the Wabanaki Nations are the only federally recognized tribes that have to be specifically named in a federal law that benefits Indian country for the law to apply to them. That has only happened once in the 40 years since the “1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act” was signed. LD 395 would allow the Wabanaki Nations to benefit from most existing and future federal laws that apply to the other 570 federally recognized tribes. Over the past 40 years, the Wabanaki Nations have missed the opportunity to benefit from 150 of the 151 bills that have improved the lives and well being of tribes throughout the country.

I urge you to vote “Ought To Pass” on LD 395. Doing so will benefit not only the Wabanaki Nations but all of us.

Sincerely,
Ann Dodd-Collins
Portland ME