

Phoebe Rogers

Starks

LD 395

2/19/26

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Somerset county

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Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Phoebe Rogers and I am a young person from Starks in Somerset County. I am part of the youth organization JustME for JustUS, and am writing in support of LD 395.

As of today, the Wabanaki Nations are the only federally recognized tribes that must be explicitly written into each federal law to benefit from it.

LD 395 would modernize the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act and the Aroostook Band of Micmacs Settlement Act so that the Wabanaki Nations can benefit from most existing and future federal laws that apply to the other 570 tribes.

Maine is the only state in the country that does not allow indigenous people full rights of their cultural heritage. Every other state lets federal tribal law apply except our home state.

As a young person, I believe that there shouldn't be barriers between indigenous individuals and their heritage, history and native culture.

Maine is a beautiful and freeing place, and providing equally for the original stewards of our state would only make it more so.

For all the above reasons, I ask you and members of the Joint Committee to vote ought to pass LD 395. Thank you.

Phoebe Rogers, citizen of Somerset County