

Testimony in Support of LD 395, An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Cathleen Miller and I live in Scarborough.

I support the enactment of LD 395, which would essentially level the playing field for the Wabanaki in federal law. This act would allow the Wabanaki Nations to benefit from the laws that apply to the other 570 federally recognized tribes. This bill is the very least we can do to support the thriving of our Wabanaki neighbors. We live in *their* homelands, and they deserve our advocacy and support.

Since the Land Claims Settlement Act, the Wabanaki Nations have not been able to benefit from federal support that other tribal nations have received, including The Stafford Act, which provides funds for natural disasters and public health crises, and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, which helps tribal governments to recruit health care providers to work in tribal health centers. These are only a few examples.

This matters to me as a Maine resident because I believe that the Wabanaki deserve parity with other tribal nations. I believe that we must do everything we can to support the true thriving of the Wabanaki people. We have an opportunity today to continue to strengthen the state-tribal government relationship and to stand with the Wabanaki in their sovereignty.

Thank you for considering my testimony, and thank you for your service to Maine.

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LD 395

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