

To: Committee on Judiciary

From: Roz O'Reilly

Date: 19 February 2026

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

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Committee on Judiciary. My name is Roz O'Reilly. I am a resident of South Portland and the Advocacy Coordinator at JustME for JustUS (JMJU), an organization focused on amplifying youth voices in rural Maine. I am writing in support of LD 395, An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations.

For too long, the State of Maine has denied the Wabanaki Nations their rights to access federal benefits as federally recognized tribes. The young rural Mainers of JustMe for JustUS are standing up for the Wabanaki Nations. The Wabanaki Nations - the original caretakers of the land we play on, harvest from, and call home - deserve justice from the strategic oppression of the 1980 Settlement Claims Act.

Things change with time: with new technology comes advanced harvesting strategies, with changing weather patterns come different construction methods, with evolving economies come new municipal priorities. Young people in rural Maine know that the ways things have been doesn't need to be how things will always be. LD 395 is our chance to restore access to federal benefits historically prohibited from the Wabanaki.

JustME for JustUS urges you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 395.

Sincerely,

Roz O'Reilly

*Advocacy Coordinator* | JustME for JustUS



