

To the Honorable Members of the Maine Legislature,

I am writing in support of LD 785, *An Act to Enact the Remaining Recommendations on Changes to the Maine Indian Land Claims Settlement Implementing Act*. I urge you to advance this legislation and help bring Maine's laws into closer alignment with principles of equity, sovereignty, and justice.

The existing settlement framework has long been recognized as flawed and restrictive, leaving the Wabanaki Nations without the same rights and opportunities afforded to other federally recognized tribes across the country. LD 785 represents an important step toward addressing these inequities by enacting long-overdue recommendations that modernize the relationship between the State of Maine and the Wabanaki Nations.

This bill is about fairness, respect, and honoring commitments. Supporting LD 785 affirms Maine's willingness to confront past decisions and to move forward in partnership, rather than resistance. I urge you to vote in favor of this legislation and to be on the right side of history.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Cowperthwaite  
Brunswick, Maine