

February 18, 2026

Dear Chair Carney, Chair Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing to express my strong support for LD 785, *An Act to Enact the Remaining Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act.*

LD 785 is a bipartisan bill based on recommendations developed by a bipartisan task force that included Chiefs of the Penobscot Nation, Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik, Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, and Mi'kmaq Nation. Their recommendations will benefit both tribal and non-tribal citizens economically, socially, politically, and environmentally. These recommendations are urgently needed in the context of realities like increased poverty for Wabanaki children and families, environmental degradation, and strains between Maine and Wabanaki Nations' governments caused by MICSA and centuries of theft, exploitation, and genocide. I am proud that our state is engaging in this kind of inter-national diplomacy and relationship building and I implore the Legislature to adopt these recommendations.

Please vote "ought to pass" on LD 785.

Sincerely,

Hadriane Hatfield

South Portland