

Tamarleigh Grenfell
Franklin
LD 395

Good morning. My name is Tamarleigh Grenfell, and I am testifying in support of LD395, An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations. This bill is a win-win-win bill. What I mean is, this law would be a win for the citizens of Wabanaki Nations, a win for every other person in Maine, and a win for the land and all living beings. For Wabanaki Nations, this law will place these nations on the same footing as all other federally recognized tribes, opening the door to tremendous economic growth that will benefit everyone in Maine. The Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development studied this a few years ago and produced the report titled "Economic and Social Impacts of Restrictions on the Applicability of Federal Indian Policies to the Wabanaki Nations in Maine" which demonstrated that "closing the gaps between the Wabanaki Nations in Maine and their peers elsewhere in the "Lower 46" could be expected to support hundreds of millions of dollars of gross state product and thousands of spillover jobs, with the preponderance of these jobs being held by non-Indian workers." The biggest win of all is a win for the land this legislature calls the state of Maine. Recognizing the Wabanaki Nations' right to enact and enforce environmental regulations in accordance with the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act will benefit all life in this area.