Kristen Dorsey
Freeport
LD 785

To: Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary [SEP] From: Kristen Dorsey - Tirol Way - Freeport, Maine - 04032 [SEP] Re: 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

To our esteemed Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am wholeheartedly in support of LD 785. The tribes of the Wabanaki Alliance are indisputably sovereign governments. As we citizens of the distinct United States hold fast to the fundamental constitutional principle of inherent authority to locally self-govern, how can we consciously deny the same to each of the tribes? The Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980 was intended to be a living document; and acknowledgment of its inefficacies in 2020, by way of convening the Task Force on Changes, must be acted upon today.

It is in the best interest of us all to establish reciprocal, mutually respectful relationships between the State of Maine and the individual tribes of the Wabanaki Alliance. The consensus recommendations coming from the task force and addressed in LD 785 exemplify such a pragmatic process and truth-based mindset. Passage today is Maine's genuine commitment to upholding the basic human rights foundational to social and economic justice, and lends itself to the well-being of the lands, waters, and inhabitants of those ecosystems. Moreover, the financial and human resources squandered by past litigation can be recommitted to actuating environmental stewardship and economic development.

A simple affirmation of the ocean explorer Jaques Cousteau, "People protect what they love.", resonates in this moment. I fully trust that when the Wabanaki birthright kinship with their Mother is upheld through passage of LD 785, our communities will be vitalized in myriad ways.

With appreciation for your service and consideration,
Kristen Dorsey
Freeport, Maine
Unceded Wabanaki Territory