

**To:** Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

**Re:** Support for LD 785, An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations

Dear Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Eileen Johnson and I live in Bowdoin. I am submitting written testimony in support of LD 785

For 40 years, restrictions in the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA) have blocked the Wabanaki Nations from accessing all of the federal self-determination policies that helped 570 other tribes create thousands of jobs and generate hundreds of millions in economic activity. While tribal income outside of Maine grew 61% since 1989, Wabanaki income grew only 9% (compared to Maine's 25% overall). It's time to remove these barriers. Research by Harvard University has shown that tribal self-government would contribute significantly to Maine's economy. Mainers support tribal sovereignty. In my professional work, I have had the honor of working with members of the Wabanaki Nations and have seen the importance of passing this legislation.

For these reasons, I urge you to support LD 785.

Thank you,

Eileen Johnson  
Bowdoin, ME