

Susana Hancock
Freeport
LD 395

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

I am honored to be writing in support of LD396, An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations. I am grateful for the bipartisan sponsors of LD395 and the Wabanaki Nations for ensuring this bill is heard and understood. Both LD395 and LD785 are long-overdue pieces of legislation that can put Maine on a path of reparation and redress for the harms it has caused to the Wabanaki Nations. In addition to directly impacting Wabanki communities and self-determination, increasing Indigenous sovereignty has benefits well beyond. I work in global climate diplomacy. Indigenous Peoples are leaders of environmental stewardship. Globally, in areas with strong Indigenous leadership, land is healthier, water cleaner, ecosystems are more biodiverse and with less degradation. Indigenous sovereignty benefits everyone.

I urge you to vote “ough to pass” on both LD395 and LD785.

Thank you,
Susana