

Susana Hancock  
Freeport  
LD 785

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

I am honored to be writing in support of LD785, An Act to Enact the Remaining  
Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims  
Settlement Implementing Act. I am grateful for the bipartisan sponsors of this bill and  
to the Wabanaki Nations for ensuring it is heard and understood. LD785 is  
long-overdue legislation that can put Maine on a path of reparation and redress for the  
harms it has caused--and continues to cause--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 “ought to pass” on LD785.

Thank you,  
Susana