



TO: The Honorable Anne Carney  
The Honorable Amy Kuhn, Co-Chairs  
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary

DATE: Thursday, February 19, 2026

RE: LD 395, An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations

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Good morning, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Committee.

My name is Emilia Toth. I am submitting testimony as the Youth Programs Manager of the League of Women Voters of Maine, and on behalf of our Youth Advocacy Team. I am testifying in strong **support** of LD 395.

The League of Women Voters of Maine is a nonpartisan political organization that has been working for over 100 years to encourage informed and active participation in government, increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate.

Currently, the Wabanaki Nations are the only federally recognized tribes that must be explicitly written into each federal law to benefit from it. LD 395 would modernize the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA) and the Aroostook Band of Micmacs Settlement Act so that the Wabanaki Nations can benefit from most existing and future federal laws that apply to the other 570 federally recognized tribes. The legislation also extends to the Mi'kmaq Nation – which did not participate in MICSA – the same rights granted to the Penobscot Nation, Passamaquoddy Tribe, and Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians.

LWVME recognizes that tribal sovereignty means respecting the right to self-government for Wabanaki peoples. Many of the best features of American democracy were influenced by principles of equality, freedom, and respect that were common in tribal governments — much more common than in European governments at the time. Our founders were inspired by these examples as they envisioned individual liberty in our new nation. By recognizing tribal sovereignty, we reaffirm our belief in government “of the people, by the people, and for the people,” the most foundational principle of our democracy.

The LWVME Youth Advocacy Team believes every citizen should be protected in the right to vote, have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all, and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic, or administrative discrimination.

For these reasons, we strongly **support** LD 395 and urge this committee to vote in favor of this bill.