



Marc Malon

PO Box 24

Biddeford, ME 04005

Phone: (207) 200-6376

Marc.Malon@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

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Testimony of Rep. Marc Malon introducing

LD 1851, An Act to Bring Parity Among the Wabanaki Nations Regarding the Generation of Revenues from Gaming

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and esteemed colleagues of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee: I am Marc Malon and I represent House District 133, which is part of the great City of Biddeford. I am here to present **LD 1851, An Act to Bring Parity Among the Wabanaki Nations Regarding the Generation of Revenues from Gaming**.

I introduced LD 1851 after conversations with Chief Clarissa Sabattis of the Houlton Band of Maliseet. It updates the laws governing the distribution of slot machine revenue generated in the State by a casino with a commercial track licensed to operate slot machines. The bill increases the total net slot machine income from a facility that meets the definition from 39% to 46%. It also provides for the distribution of the additional 7% of net slot machine income to the tribal governments of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and the Mi'kmaq Nation.

To be clear, LD 1851 does not expand gaming in Maine, nor will it impact revenues for the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Nations. It also will not impact the operations of the Oxford Casino. What it does is adjust the distribution of revenue to ensure more money is invested in Maine. This will lead to increased revenue parity for the Houlton Band of Maliseet and the Mi'kmaq Nation. This revenue is essential for these tribal nations and will bring positive outcomes for the entire region, extending beyond tribal boundaries.

Others coming after me can speak to this issue in greater technical detail. I sponsored this bill because it is a matter of fairness and brings us a small step closer towards a more just relationship with the sovereign indigenous nations whose land we live on.