

To: Committee on Judiciary
From: MADI DUVARNEY, BAR HARBOR
Date: FEBRUARY 19, 2026

RE: Testimony in support of LD 395 "An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations"

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Madi DuVarney, and I am a student at College of the Atlantic, living in Bar Harbor. I am testifying in support of LD 395, "An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations."

Before moving to Maine, I lived in the heart of Indian Country: Tulsa, Oklahoma. I witnessed history being made there just 5 years ago, following the monumental McGirt decision. I can only hope to see a similar precedent established here today, a long-awaited restoration of rights.

Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt perpetuated the fiction that sovereignty would disrupt civil and criminal affairs throughout the state. Warned of the destruction that would ensue. Claimed that the decision would bankrupt the tribes. This has proved to be erroneous.

These same tactics of fear-mongering have been used for years to oppose tribal sovereignty in Maine. Despite Gov. Janet Mills words, the provisions of this proposed bill do not threaten to "further divide the state and ... people." In fact, it's quite the opposite. Support for sovereignty has been notably bipartisan. The last iteration of this bill generated a record number of testimonials in support.

This act is about reconciliation, restoration, redress, and revitalization. Tribal governments are the oldest sovereigns on the continent; the diminution of their inherent sovereignty to that of a municipality is unjust. I urge you to support LD 395.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.