



**MAINE MUNICIPAL
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**Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association
Neither For Nor Against**

***LD 785 - An Act to Enact the Remaining Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the
Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act***

February 19, 2026

Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am providing testimony “neither for nor against” LD 785 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association’s (MMA) elected 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). MMA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit member service organization and aims to help provide policy solutions that work for all residents in Maine. The LPC guides the advocacy efforts and establishes positions on bills of municipal interest.

It is important to note that municipal leaders recognize the importance of self-governance to establish local priorities and secure economic vitality and generally support the enactment of the remaining recommendations for changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act. Our concern is focused on the potential for Maine’s municipalities to be required to address the demands and priorities, of two sovereign entities: the state and tribal nations.

Specifically, municipal officials are concerned with decisions and regulations that will shift additional burdens onto communities as we all work to protect Maine’s natural resources. For example, although municipalities are currently meeting state water quality standards, it is possible that more stringent, costly, measures could be implemented that impact communities located upstream from trust lands. The reverse could also be true, as decisions made by tribes could make it more difficult for communities to meet established regulatory standards. At the very least, legislation should recognize the dual and potentially conflicting regulatory compliance requirements that may be placed on communities.

Thank you for considering the municipal perspective on this important legislation.



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