



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

February 19, 2026

Hon. Anne Carney, Chair
Hon. Amy Kuhn, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
Room 438, State House
Augusta, Maine 04330

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

Dear Sen. Carney and Rep. Kuhn:

Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Office of the Governor on LD 785, *An Act to Enact the Remaining Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act*. While we are not able to support the bill as printed,¹ we are pleased to report that we have been actively working with Tribal partners from each of the Wabanaki Nations since November on a potential consensus amendment to the bill. That amendment, which is not yet subject to a final agreement among the five parties, would address land acquisition, make changes to the laws that would benefit the Wabanaki Nations and their members, and recognize a representative to the Maine Legislature from the Mi'kmaq Nation. We hope to be able to present that amendment to the Committee at the work session.

Sincerely,

Gerald D. Reid
Chief Legal Counsel

¹ LD 785 as printed would raise concerns that were previously expressed in connection with LD 2094 in the 129th Legislature. <https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getTestimonyDoc.asp?id=141208> ; <https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getTestimonyDoc.asp?id=141207> .



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