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Testimony In Support of LD 870, Resolve, Directing the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations To Study the Impact of Policies Regarding Agriculture, Access to Land, Access to Grants and Access to Financing on African-American and Indigenous Farmers in the State.

Presented by Representative Rena Newell, Passamaquoddy Tribe to the Agricultural, Conservation and Forestry Committee, Thursday, April 1, 2021.

Good morning Senator Dill, Representative O'Neil, and other distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agricultural, Conservation and Forestry Committee.

I am Rena Newell, Passamaquoddy Tribal Representative from Sipayik.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit supporting testimony for this committee's consideration of LD 870 Resolve, Directing the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations To Study the Impact of Policies Regarding Agriculture, Access to Land, Access to Grants and Access to Financing on African-American and Indigenous Farmers in the State.

As the Passamaquoddy Tribe appreciates and supports the consideration of inclusion as presented in this proposed bill to direct the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations to study the impact of policies regarding agriculture with considerations to access to land, grants and to financing for African-American and Indigenous farmers in the State of Maine.

With the understanding that the commission shall report its findings and may submit legislation that serves to create equity in representation and access to agricultural programs, land, grants and financing in the State to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry by January 17, 2022.

This proposed bill reflects good practice in crafting potential policy on historically disadvantaged racial communities. Therefore, I ask each of you to support with a vote in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Woliwon.

Passamaquoddy Tribe