

Maulian Dana  
Penobscot Nation

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and honorable members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, it is my honor to testify in support of LD 489: Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish a Right to a Healthy Environment. I want to thank Senator Maxmin for her leadership and meaningful consultation on this issue with my office at Penobscot Nation. The Wabanaki Nations have been stewards of the lands and waters now called Maine since time immemorial. The environment is not a separate issue for us, it is woven into our culture, values, life ways, and how we view our place in the world. This speaks to the deep ancestral connection we have to our homelands but also to the modern day work we do in our natural resources departments and policy making in every level of tribal government. The proposed amendment to the Constitution of Maine would ease in part the place in our spirit that aches when we see desecration and polluting of Mother Earth. We, collectively, have a long way to go when it comes to treating the environment as a sacred being but this resolution is a great step in the right direction. A healthy environment is a human right. For our generation and the next.

Maulian Dana  
Penobscot Nation Tribal Ambassador