

**Testimony of Lloyd Cuttler**  
**In opposition to LD 1568 and LD 1626**  
**Acts to implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on**  
**Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Act**  
**May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Chair Carney, Chair Harnett, and members of the judiciary Committee, my name is Lloyd Cuttler. I am a member of the Carrabassett Valley Board of Selectmen. I will not repeat the Testimony provided by our Town Manager, Dave Cota, but I agree with his testimony and endorse it wholeheartedly. instead, I will emphasize a few key points.

LD 1568 and LD 1626 will create major confusion and disagreement, sowing even more discord and resulting in more litigation, at a time when we should be coming together to discuss realistic changes to the MIA of 1980. We should be discussing changes in the MIA that will improve sovereignty for the Nations, while at the same time preserving Home Rule for Municipalities, which is the corner stone of judicial Law in the State of Maine.

The New section 6205(6) would allow acquisition of new Trust land anywhere in the State at any time in the future, without consent from the municipality where the land is located. In Carrabassett Valley the Penobscot acquired 24,000 ac of "Fee Land." in the 1980 MIA, almost 50% of the entire Town. The MIA required any land acquired by the tribes in an organized Town such as ours could not be placed into Federal Trust without a Vote of our Town and the State. This bill seeks to take that provision away and strip all the towns in Maine of their rights to govern which is contrary to Home rule. As a side note, there is presently almost 40 parcels of land in the unorganized territories that were designated by the MIA for trust status and still available today. In fact, this committee just extended that deadline to acquire that land till 2030.

There are many other issues in this proposed Legislature that will impact all the citizens of Maine. The original MIA took over 8 years to complete. This 39-page Bill has only been available less than a week. This legislation as written is far too ambiguous and Could end up doing more harm than good. I hope you will take the time to not only listen to our Tribal citizens, but ALL the Citizens of the State of Maine that would be impacted by this Bill.