

Jan Beach
Belgrade

Support for LD 1626, An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act

Sen. Carney, Rep. Harnett and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Jan Beach and I live in Belgrade. As a constituent of Maine, I am here to testify in support of LD 1626.

As a resident of Maine, I recognize that the Wabanaki are the original people of this land and struggle to protect their tribal lands. For far too many years the Tribes of Maine have not had the same benefits as most Tribal nations in this country. In the earlier years of my life, I lived in Colorado and saw the great social and economic strides made by the many tribes of that area. LD 1626 would bring equality to the Wabanaki tribes by restoring tribal sovereignty and would help the Wabanaki tribes access fully the opportunities to health care, economic development, safety and much more that is afforded all other federally recognized tribes. This bill will help to right the wrongs of the past and bring a better relationship between the State and the Tribes.

It is now time to make whole the Wabanaki tribes by restoring tribal sovereignty, as it is the essence of racial equity and environmental justice . Thank you committee members for your consideration on this bill.

Jan Beach
Belgrade, ME