

City of Portland | City Council

Kate Snyder, *Mayor*



To: Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
From: Portland City Council's Legislative Committee
Date: 2/21/2022
Re: LD 1626

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

Senator Carney, Representative Harnett, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

The Portland City Council's Legislative Committee writes to support of LD 1626, An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act.

Maine is the only state in the nation that does not recognize the sovereignty of its Indigenous tribes. For over forty years, the State of Maine has used language in the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act to deny the Wabanaki benefits from more than 150 federal laws representing missed opportunities for economic development, increased access to health care, expanded environmental protections, enhanced K-12 education, and legislation that fostered job creation, ensured safe drinking water, and strengthened laws regarding prevention and prosecution of sexual assault and domestic violence.

We must do better as a state. The tribes in Maine deserve the full recognition and treatment of a sovereign tribal nation as other federally recognized tribes do and Maine should no longer stand in the way of these rights.

Thank you for your consideration; please support LD 1626.

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