

Frank Hample
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LD 1626

I'm writing in support of LD 1626 and self-determination for the Indigenous tribes in Maine, and ask that your committee vote ought to pass. For 40 years, Maine has moved in the opposite direction from that of federal support for Indigenous self-determination. The need for sovereignty for the tribes in Maine is immediate and necessary. The tribes are asking to be treated like the other 570 federally recognized tribes in the United States. Communities of color, low-income communities, and tribal communities across Maine are disproportionately affected by problems such as climate change, environmental pollution, and lack of access to healthy food. Because science has too often ignored or exacerbated racial inequities, it must now be used to right those wrongs.