

Eleanor Prior
Falmouth
LD 1626

To: Sen. Carney, Rep. Harnett, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
From: Eleanor Prior, 104 Hardy Road, Falmouth, ME 04105

Re: 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. Hartnett and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is The Rev. Eleanor Prior and I live in Falmouth. I submit this testimony in support of LD 1626.

I was raised on a strong morality of equal rights for all. The novel 1984 by George Orwell made it clear that there is no justice when some are considered "more equal than others." In Maine I find just such a case of injustice in the treatment of the tribes who have lived here long before the colonizers arrived. As a descendent of colonizers, I find it imperative to speak out to work towards righting past wrongs. I also speak as a Christian who strives to bring about justice for all. Every human being has the inherent right to determine their own future, and communities have the right and duty to do that jointly.

LD 1626 is one such step towards justice for the Wabanaki Peoples of Maine, where justice has long been denied. The tribes are merely asking to be able to determine their communities' futures. They should have that right on their native lands without the state of Maine obstructing them. The rights they seek are rights that the other 570 federally recognized tribes already have.

As a person of faith I find the denial of such rights unconscionable, and well within the ability of the legislature of Maine to remedy.

Thank you for considering this testimony and for your diligent work regarding LD 1626.

Sincerely, Eleanor Prior