

Kerry Read
paris
LD 813

Senator Anne Carney, Representative Amy Kuhn and members of the committee, I am speaking as a concerned citizen, member of the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network and Wabanaki Alliance Coalition to oppose LD813. Federally recognized Wabanaki Tribes have a unique status with protection, access to laws and resources, and benefits with the federal government. A state recognition process muddies the waters of what is generally understood as a Nation, and it has the potential to threaten the gains that the Wabanaki Nations have worked hard to achieve in regards to their rights and privileges in the federal relationship States do not have the authority to designate who counts as a tribal nation.

If this bill passes, it opens the door for other groups of people in Maine to create tribes, potentially diluting, disrupting and dismantling years of work by the Wabanaki Tribes toward amending the Settlement Act and gaining state recognition of their rights to self-determination.

Please vote ought not to pass.

Thank you

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