

To: Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
From: Lelania Avila, Mount Desert
Re: Support for LD 785, An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations

Dear Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee. In addition to all the testimony you've heard about LD 785, I add my voice:

Please support LD 785.

At the end of the day, your life may not be directly impacted by the passage (or fail) of this bill. But the daily lived experience of Wabanaki people will benefit greatly when this bill passes.

Indirectly we will all eventually benefit.

Please look past any short-term budgetary concerns you may have and pass this bill. For too long we've collectively failed to recognize the humanity of our Wabanaki hosts. For way too long some have profited from the natural resources here that were taken without consent or consideration.

Anyone who has no direct relationship to Wabanaki people, yet calls the Dawnland home, is a *visitor* here in what we now call Maine. Let us become respectful guests instead of uninvited invaders.

Pass LD 785 and take the overdue steps to improve the relationship with the Wabanaki community.

Can you imagine a world where we live in harmony with nature and each other? How would that contribute to a sense of wellbeing within your own nervous system? Please, take a moment to consider this and feel it in your body. Connect with your own neglected sense of humanity with a couple of slow breaths. What if passage of this bill is one step towards much needed relief and repair?

Thank you for passing LD 785.

Sincerely,

Lelania Avila
Mount Desert