

Jason Brough

LD 785

Dear Esteemed Members of the Maine Legislative Body,

Wabanaki Communities deserve the same legal protections as their Indigenous counterparts across the US. It is morally reprehensible that they have not received the same legal status as other Indigenous Sovereign Nations.

I urge members of this State Legislature to be on the progressive side of justice and vote to pass LD 785. Doing so would mark a turn towards righting past wrongs towards Wabanaki people and offer them a means to help build community resiliency, which, in turn, will have cascading beneficial effects for future generations and even for their non-Indigenous neighbors.

Studies have shown (Wildcat 2009; Mihesuah and Hoover 2019; Weatherford 1988; Grosman and Parker 2012) that Indigenous communities have created/create some of the most ecologically biodiverse regions in the world. They help create clean water, cleaner air, sustainable harvesting of plants/animals, and increase wildlife biodiversity. But they need access to funds and recognition of their Sovereignty to accomplish these goals.

As voting members of this legislative body, you have the power to create positive change for historically oppressed people. Please act in a way that brings healing.