

Beth Clifford
Perry
LD 785

To Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on
Judiciary,

My name is Beth Clifford, and I live in Perry. I am submitting testimony in support of LD 785. This legislation will remove restrictions in the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA) that have blocked the Wabanaki Nations from accessing all of the federal self-determination policies that helped 570 other tribes create thousands of jobs and generate hundreds of millions in economic activity.

The 2022 Report by Harvard researchers projected that tribal self-government would add \$330 million annually to Maine's GDP, create 2,700+ jobs (more than half filled by non-tribal rural Mainers), and generate \$39 million yearly in state and local tax revenue. When the Wabanaki thrive, rural Maine thrives.

Thank you, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, for your thoughtful consideration of this critically important legislation. Please vote for the passage of LD 785. This law will finally acknowledge the Wabanaki Nations' right to self-determination, which they never ceded.

Sincerely,
Beth E. Clifford