

Wayne Cobb
Portland
LD 785

I am a member of the Portland Friends Meeting (Quakers). Over the past seven years we have educated ourselves in matters concerning our Wabanaki neighbors and have spoken out, individually and as a community, in favor of Wabanaki sovereignty and fairness to the Tribes in Maine.

I am testifying in support of LD 785. In 2019 I attended some of those day-long sessions of the Task Force, which met over a six-month period. Over considerable time, as each topic was presented, all who attended whether in person or online, were educated on the changes to the Implementing Act that were ultimately approved overwhelmingly. Sadly, ultimate passage was not accomplished.

Now, I appeal to State leaders to remove the barriers that have kept the Wabanaki and their rural Maine neighbors from the economic improvements achieved by Tribes across Indian Country. I appeal to each and every legislator to help us attain real justice for our Wabanaki neighbors. I strongly urge you to unanimously vote “ought to pass” on L.D. 784 Thank you.