

To: Committee on Judiciary
From: Hadley Couraud // Norway, ME
Date: February 18, 2026

RE: Testimony in support of LD395 – “An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations”

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Hadley Couraud, I work in river restoration, and I live in a rural town in Maine. I am testifying in wholehearted support of LD395.

Our Wabanaki neighbors have missed 40 years of opportunities afforded to other Indigenous Nations across the country. These incredibly critical resources and policies address health care, environmental protection, responses to natural disasters, and effective responses to violence against women. This is horrifying, to imagine what tribal members have endured absent these rights and resources. Today we can change that and turn the tide – we can restore what has been unjustly restricted.

This bill would not afford Wabanaki Nations any special treatment – merely bringing them to equal treatment under federal law. However, there is progress to be gained – to the Nations by way of accessing the same rights afforded other Indigenous nations, but also to rural Maine. If the Wabanaki can access self-determination through policies, program, and funding, we all stand to benefit from creation of jobs, goods, and services provided by Native businesses.

Please, I urge you, join your colleagues in this show of bipartisan support for this bill, and take the opportunity you have to support LD395, to right an injustice, and set us all – Wabanaki and Mainers alike, on a path of healing and growth.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Respectfully,
Hadley Couraud