

Jonathan Falk
Carmel
LD 395

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

From: Jonathan Falk, Carmel, ME 04419

Re: Support for LD 395, "An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the
Wabanaki"

I am submitting this testimony in support of LD 395, "An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki." This legislation has broad bipartisan support. Together with LD 785 "An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations", it will allow the Wabanaki Nations and the Mi'kmaq Nation (which did not participate in the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act), to get the benefits of existing Federal laws which already apply to 570 federally-recognized tribes in the other 49 states, as well as to future federal laws.

LD 395 will give the Wabanaki Nations the rights and support of such important Federal laws as the Stafford Act, the Violence Against Women Act, and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. In addition, it will give the Wabanaki Nations access to economic development rights and Federal funding. Deprived of this access to economic development support, growth of Maine tribal income has lagged far behind that of tribes in the rest of the United States, to the detriment of the tribes and all of Maine.

Thank you for considering this testimony.