

Anne Farrington  
Auburn  
LD 785

IN SUPPORT of LD 785, An Act to Enact the Remaining Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act  
Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and other members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Anne Farrington, I live in Auburn, and I'm deeply disappointed that it is taking us so long to restore sovereignty to the Wabanaki Nations.

I know this is a challenging time for the State of Maine as we seek to defend our civil and state's rights against federal encroachment. But we've known for a long time (since 2019 at the very least) that MICSA wasn't working and that changes were required. It is time for Maine to adopt the consensus recommendations made by the diligent 2020 Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act.

We've been down this road before, and I think we all know that the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development determined that sovereignty matters: "When Native nations make their own decisions about what development approaches to take, they consistently out-perform external decision makers—on matters as diverse as governmental form, natural resource management, economic development, health care and social service provision."

When the Wabanaki Nations succeed, Maine succeeds. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. Please support LD 785.