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LD 785

Members of the committee, I am writing today in support of LD 785. We must face the reality that history is filled with moments of oppression and outright corruption. And while Americans and Mainers have worked for many, many decades to right the wrongs of the past, we still have several substantial transgressions to rectify. One of these substantial transgressions is the failure to recognize the sovereignty of the Wabanaki Nations in full. This failure persists despite the consensus recommendations of the MICSA Task Force that were first submitted to this committee in January 2020. Recommendations that, once implemented, would rectify this long-standing problem. The Wabanaki Nations have waited long enough. They have been patient for far longer than anyone could realistically expect given the egregiousness of this state of affairs. Speeches and reassuring words will no longer suffice. Meaningful action is all that matters now. It is a simple matter of respect for those that were here long before us. Pass LD 785 and prove, beyond any doubt, that Mainers truly stand with the Wabanaki Nations.