

Janine Georgette
Juneteenth Downeast
LD 395

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

From: Janine "JG" Georgette, Director, Juneteenth Downeast, 77 Beechland Rd,
Ellsworth, ME 04605

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

Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Janine
"JG" Georgette. I am testifying on behalf of Juneteenth Downeast. I am here to testify
in support of LD 395.

I have testified separately on behalf of Juneteenth Downeast in support of LD 785. I
will not repeat what we have already said there. However we specifically wanted to
make these points about LD 395 regarding the impacts on healthcare and disaster
response, as well as so many other issues, that would be resolved by passage of LD
395. National legislation that applies to all other federally recognized tribes in the
United States should also apply to tribes in Maine, without specialized additions to
the national legislation.

Healthcare for members of Wabanaki Nations is being negatively impacted by rules
that prevent access to doctors who are willing to come and help through the Indian
Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA).

Disaster response is hampered by lack of access to the benefits of the Stafford Act
without cumbersome state requirements first being met. Timing is everything, in
disaster response. State bureaucratic impediments to action are not helping anybody,
in Wabanaki communities or the surrounding Mainers.

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) is a case in point regarding timing. It
took SEVEN YEARS for VAWA to come to Maine after it was originally enacted
federally. How many Wabanaki women were killed or assaulted and grievously
injured during those intervening seven years? Federal Indian legislation needs to
come to Maine at the same time that it does to all the other states in the country.

It has been suggested that each of these issues should be addressed individually.
However, we feel strongly that it is a systemic problem and should be addressed at its
root, without delays for individual State processes after Federal laws have been
enacted. LD 395 is an effective solution. This bill has broad-based, bipartisan support
in the Maine State Legislature.

Wabanaki Nations in Maine should be on an equal footing with the other 570
federally recognized tribes across the United States.

Thank you for your time. Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 395.

Sincerely,
Janine "JG" Georgette
Director, Juneteenth Downeast