

Matsu Hikida
Montville
LD 785

Dear members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing today to express my support for LD 785. This is a necessary and past-due measure for the following reasons:

1. The 1980 Settlement Act was intended to be revised and modernized, yet it continues to restrict and harm the Wabanaki Nations.
 2. Other tribes throughout the country have been able to access the federal programs that the Wabanaki Nations have been continuously denied access to.
 3. It is clear that these programs make a real, tangible difference in all metrics of well-being.
 4. Mainers overwhelmingly support tribal sovereignty.
- And perhaps most importantly, 5. The Wabanaki Nations have been stewarding this land for generations. It is obvious that they are a necessary and essential part of Maine's community and economy. We need to update the outdated legislation that has caused harm for decades.

Please pass LD 785, An Act to Enact the Remaining Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act.

Sincerely,

Matsu Hikida