

Louise Jensen  
Portland  
LD 395

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

From: Louise Jensen, Portland ME

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

February 18, 2026

As a concerned citizen of the state of Maine I am writing to voice my full support of LD 395, An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations. If passed, this bill will have a powerful impact for the Wabanaki Nations and on the non-native communities in Wabanaki homelands now called Maine.

LD 395 puts the Wabanaki Nations on equal footing with all other federally recognized tribes.

The Wabanaki Nations are the only federally recognized tribes that must be explicitly written into each federal law to benefit from it. LD 395 would modernize the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA) and the Aroostook Band of Micmacs Settlement Act so that the Wabanaki Nations can benefit from federal laws that apply to the other 570 federally recognized tribes.

Amending the two acts would benefit not only the Wabanaki Nations, but also rural Maine, according to a 2022 analysis by the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development. Removing the jurisdictional barriers would help the Wabanaki Nations take advantage of federal self-determination policies, programs, and funding that elsewhere in Indian Country have led to the creation of thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in goods and services produced by Native businesses.

I strongly support LD 395 and I urge you to vote for its passage. When the members of our communities thrive we all thrive.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Jensen