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LD 785

LD 785 represents a pivotal step toward tribal sovereignty, federal parity, and government-to-government cooperation in so-called "Maine". According to Harvard researchers, tribal self-government would increase Maine's GDP by \$330 million annually, create 2,700+ jobs (more than half filled by non-tribal rural Mainers), and generate \$39 million yearly in state and local tax revenue. When the Wabanaki thrive, rural Maine thrives. Most of all, this bill is about acknowledging tribal sovereignty and bringing state law in alignment with the values of the people who live on this land and want to recognize the sovereignty of the Wabanaki. In other words, who better to entrust these sacred and beautiful lands to if not the indigenous people who have been in relationship with this land for thousands of years? I strongly urge the committee vote ought to pass on LD 785