

Cynthia Marten  
South Portland  
LD 395

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Committee of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Cynthia Marten and I am a resident of South Portland Maine and I am testifying in support of LD395, An Act to Restore the Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations.

I am a resident of Maine as of October 2023. I have been puzzled by the relationship that Maine has created with the Wabanaki which treats them more like a municipality while disregarding sovereignty. Because of this, they are treated more like municipalities and do not have the federal protections that are provided for other people in Maine. It is time for the Wabanaki to be protected by federal laws. The legal and regulatory control of tribal lands currently acts as a barrier for economic development and growth in their communities. The contrast between the Meskwaki settlements in Iowa and the Wabanaki in Maine is startling to me. As a Unitarian Universalist, my faith leads me to support this bill which rights a wrong. I support this bill because it begins to serve as a way to begin repairing this situation.