

James Melloh
South Portland
LD 785

Dear Judiciary Committee Members,

I am writing in Support of LD 785 and LD 395. For too long Maine's tribes have been denied sovereignty, sovereignty which they have a right to, sovereignty which other tribes across the nation enjoy. It is sad and embarrassing that Maine lawmakers, like so many others who have attempted to subject native Americans to a less than status, passed a land claims act which was not fair.

At a time when we should be making reparations for the crimes committed against Native Americans, the least we can do is honor prior agreements "granting" sovereignty to those who stewarded this land for thousands of years.

Please honor our commitments made with those who shared the bounty of this continent with early settlers, those whose cultures we have all but annihilated.

Thank you for listening.