

Nancy Nickerson
Portland
LD 785

I write today in support of LD 785, which will revisit the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA) and enact the remaining recommendations made by the Task Force which evaluated the MICSA. This Task Force, convened in 2019, issued a report in January 2020 with 22 recommendations to restore tribal self-governance over a range of issues. These included the prosecution of crimes on tribal lands; the regulation of fishing, hunting, and other uses of natural resources on tribal lands; gaming; taxation; and land acquisition. Legislation crafted in 2022 and 2023 had broad bipartisan support but failed to advance past Governor Mills' desk. Likewise, LD 785, similar to the earlier bill, has legislative support from both Democrats and Republicans. In addition to legislators, all four Wabanaki Nations support LD 785, along with:

hundreds of businesses; organizations advocating for the environment, conservation, and economic and social justice; faith-based and youth groups; unions; and professional and philanthropic organizations that make up the Wabanaki Alliance Tribal Coalition, as well as thousands of individual Mainers.
Please support the passage of LD 785.