

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

From: Leslie Pohl, Portland, ME 04102

Date: 2/16/26

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

My name is **Leslie Pohl** and I live in **Portland, ME**. I am writing to testify in **support of LD 395**. I work at the University of Southern Maine and over many years I have learned about history of the Wabanaki people in Maine, and particularly about the details of the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA).

LD 395 is important so that the Wabanaki Nations (adding/including the Mi'kmaq Nation) can benefit from most existing and future federal laws that apply to more than 570 other federally recognized tribes.

MICSA and the **Aroostook Band of Micmacs Settlement Act** need to be amended to correct the current situation in which the Wabanaki tribes have been excluded from federal legislation for 45 years. This will benefit not only the Wabanaki Nations, but also rural Maine communities that neighbor those Nations because all will be uplifted together.

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony and for supporting LD 395!