

Mary Ellen Quinn
WINTERPORT
LD 785

Hearing date: February 19, 2026

LD 785 – “An Act to Enact the Remaining Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act”

Testimony by Mary Ellen Quinn, Co-Coordinator - Pax Christi Maine

Dear Sen. Ross, Rep. Faulkingham, Sen. Bennett and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing as a faith leader in support of LD 785. Pax Christi Maine is part of a national and international peace and justice movement based on Catholic Social Teaching, which includes the principles of a call to community, rights and responsibilities, care for God’s creation, and solidarity. Support of right relationship with our Wabanaki neighbors exemplifies all of these principles.

It is well researched and documented that the barriers erected by the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act have caused the Wabanaki tribal members to lag seriously behind the other 570 tribes across the country that are federally recognized. The grave injustices caused by these barriers, which have harmed men, women and children, are related to income; childhood poverty; job creation; environmental protections; economic development and more.

People of faith and conscience throughout Maine continue to support Wabanaki sovereignty. Please move forward with this important and long awaited legislation. The time is now to show unwavering support of our Wabanaki neighbors. I urge you to vote in favor of LD 785.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Mary Ellen Quinn, Winterport