

Mariah Richards
Hope
LD 395

Dear members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Mariah Richards, and I am a registered voter of Hope, ME.

I am writing to urge your support of LD 395.

As a fluvial geomorphologist working to improve our waters I urge you to take this opportunity to restore self determination and the legal ability for Wabanaki Tribes to care for and protect our collective lands and waters. Our waters are our most precious resource, now and into an uncertain future as more rivers are polluted and groundwater aquifers are depleted.

It is long overdue for Wabanaki Nations to receive the benefits of Tribal Laws and to access environmental protections that apply to all other of the 570 Federally Recognized Tribes. Please pass LD 395 and amend the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act and the Aroostook Band of Micmacs Settlement Act.

You have an opportunity to act and make meaningful change after over 40 years of missed opportunity.