



Testimony in Support of LD 395 and LD 785

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Jeff Romano. I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) in support of LD 395 and LD 785.

MCHT supports the principle of Wabanaki sovereignty embodied in both bills. Our position is grounded in more than 20 years of work with the Wabanaki people on the conservation of the lands essential to the ecological health of the Maine Coast along with the cultural traditions and a way of life that has sustained the Wabanaki for centuries.

We encourage the Committee to seek an outcome for Maine's federally recognized Tribes based on mutual respect and fairness.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust seeks to advance the conservation of lands and waters in Maine to ensure ecological wellbeing and foster thriving communities. Over the past five decades, we have conserved more than 185,000 acres, including over 160 places open for traditional outdoor recreation.