

Rachel Rumson  
New Gloucester  
LD 395

Dear Committee Members,

The tribes have inherent sovereignty. I am not sure how the State gets out of the way with regard to honoring that sovereignty, perhaps this is it. I don't not want to disparage the work that Reps. Cabot Ross and Dana have done here. What I do want to address generally, is that the State must not self-center the State in this language. The State must not imply it has authority to grant sovereignty to any of the tribes.

One way to ensure that is not the case is to vet the bill with tribal communities. The Passamaquoddy Tribe, Penobscot Nation, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, and Mi'kmaq Nation must have the opportunity to have discussions around these matters. This is non-negotiable. Final implementation of these changes must remain contingent upon the formal agreement of each individual tribal government.

LD395 proposes a significant update to the legal relationship between the State of Maine and the Wabanaki Nations, including the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Penobscot Nation, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, and Mi'kmaq Nation. The bill seeks to restore the tribes' access to beneficial federal laws that were previously restricted by the unique terms of the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act. This is an important correction and I hope that is done.

LD395 provisions, federal statutes designed to support indigenous communities would generally apply to these nations even if they conflict with state jurisdiction. I appreciate that the proposal maintains state control over gambling activities and certain criminal and environmental matters to ensure regulatory consistency.

Thank you,  
Rachel Lyn Rumson