

## MEDEA H. STEINMAN

208 Hog Bay Rd. · Franklin, Maine 04634

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February 16, 2026

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

**Re:** Support for LD 785, An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Medea Steinman and I live in Franklin, Maine. I am submitting written testimony in support of LD 785.

While the original intent of the Maine Indian Land Claims Settlement Act (MICSA) was to move things in a positive direction for tribes living in Maine, ultimately it has not been adequate for that purpose. It still prevents the Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, Mi'kmaq, and Houlton Band of Maliseet peoples from exercising true self-governance. This is simply wrong and it is unacceptable. As a Mainer, an American, and as a human being, I cannot stand by while this continues, I cannot remain silent. We must do what we can to make things right for the tribes.

I care about all my neighbors in Maine. I care deeply about all people being treated equally under the law. The MICSA withholds rights from the Wabanaki Nations, rights that are accorded to all other 570 federally recognized tribes in the United States. The 22 consensus recommendations that this bill would implement would extend equal rights to Wabanaki nations and tribes relating to tribal court jurisdiction; hunting, fishing and natural resource regulation on tribal land; taxation authority; and trust land acquisition. These are fundamental, basic rights that all self-governing peoples are entitled to and deserve. Please ensure that our Wabanaki sisters and brothers are accorded all these rights and benefits.

Thank you to all committee members for holding this hearing and considering this important legislation. Please vote to pass LD 785 to make it possible for Wabanaki Nations to exercise full rights as all other tribes in the U.S. are able to do.

Sincerely,



Medea H. Steinman