

MEDEA H. STEINMAN

208 Hog Bay Rd. · Franklin, Maine 04634

February 16, 2026

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

Re: Support for LD 395, An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the 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 395.

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. Along with LD 785, additional steps must be taken to modernize the Settlement Acts and ensure that tribes in Maine are not excluded when Congress passes federal legislation for tribes nationwide.

I was shocked to learn that this exclusion has occurred 151 times in the past 40 years since MICSA was passed. This is unacceptable! As a Mainer, an American, and as a human being, I cannot stand by and be silent. We must not allow this to continue. We must do everything possible to make things right for the tribes.

In addition, passing these bills will benefit all of us living in Maine because this will help facilitate economic progress for the tribes. Progress for the tribes means the economies of the regions in which they live will also benefit. Furthermore, LD 395 would extend the same rights and provisions to the Mi'kmaq Nation that are granted to the Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, and Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians.

I care about all my neighbors in Maine. I care deeply about all people being treated equally under the law. As it currently stands, the MICSA withholds rights from the Wabanaki Nations that are accorded to all other 570 federally recognized tribes in the United States. Please help bring this to an end.

Thank you to all committee members for holding this hearing and considering this important legislation. Please vote to pass LD 395 to make it possible for Wabanaki Nations to exercise full rights and receive the same recognition that other tribes in the U.S. receive.

Sincerely,



Medea H. Steinman