

Chloe Selene
Biddeford
LD 395

Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee, I am writing this to testify in support of LD 395.

I am not a member of the parties impacted by the bill, but as a Maine resident I strongly wish for LD 395's proposed changes to be implemented.

I see no reason for the Wabanaki Nations to be excluded by default from the benefits of Federal Legislation that would otherwise confer clearly relevant rights. This is not a hypothetical problem. It has come to my attention that tribes, nations, and peoples in Maine have been excluded from just such legislation at least 151 times in the past 40 years. The Wabanaki Alliance website states that: "The Wabanaki Nations are the only federally recognized tribes to be treated in this way." This is an obvious and shameful exception and it is long past time for the Maine's Legislature to pass a bill such as LD 395. These changes efficiently address existing legal issues and provide a much more reasonable legal framework going forward.

As a Maine resident I support LD 395 for reasons of legal consistency and personal ethics. I am proud of many of Maine's laws and cultural values and I earnestly urge this Committee to amend this unusual exception.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to present this testimony in support of LD 395.