

Karin Spitfire
Belfast
LD 395

Dear Current Judiciary Committee

My name is Karin Spitfire and I live in Belfast. I am writing to support LD395 an Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations.

This bill is not only just, but vital to the well-being of the Wabanaki Nations. Prior to 1980 the nations were beginning to thrive, with the passage of several federal pieces of legislation that removed oppressive strictures and providing opportunities. The Settlement act preventing the Wabanaki Nations from being able to continue to be included in the acknowledgement and benefits all other recognized tribal nations has taken an immense toll on the Wabanaki Nations members.

Over the last 26 years I have bore witness at least three Judiciary Committees being patiently educated regarding the process that created the Maine Land Settlement act and the problems it created that needed to be addressed by members of the Wabanaki, and others.

If I am correct members of this current committee and those of the just prior one, studied hard and came up with a comprehensive bill to address most of the problems, but that bill did not get passed the governors office. Persevering many aspects of the bill were chunked into separate bills, passed and again mostly vetoed.

Please once again, do justice and pass this with a unanimous support out of committee
Karin Spitfire