

Ella Tabasky
Brunswick
LD 395

To: Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on
Judiciary
From: Ella D. Tabasky, Brunswick
Re: Support for LD 395, An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the
Wabanaki Nations

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

I am writing in strong support of LD 395 because current legal structures place
Wabanaki Nations in a position unlike any other federally recognized tribes in the
country.

Today, the Wabanaki Nations are the only tribes that must be explicitly named in each
federal law in order to benefit from it. This creates unnecessary barriers, delays, and
inequities that limit access to programs designed to strengthen tribal communities,
economies, and public health.

LD 395 would modernize the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA)
and the Aroostook Band of Micmacs Settlement Act so that federal laws intended for
Indian Country apply to the Wabanaki Nations in the same way they apply to more
than 570 other tribes nationwide.

The bill also ensures that the Mi'kmaq Nation (which did not participate in MICSA)
receives the same federal rights already extended to the Penobscot Nation,
Passamaquoddy Tribe, and Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians.

Updating these laws is not about creating special treatment; it is about removing
structural barriers that have kept Wabanaki communities from accessing opportunities
available elsewhere for decades. Aligning Maine's framework with federal Indian
policy will support stronger tribal self-determination, healthier communities, and
more resilient economies.

Thank you for your consideration.

^[L]_[SEP]Ella D. Tabasky^[L]_[SEP]
Brunswick