

Senator Hickman, Representative Sylvester and Honorable Members of the Labor and Housing Committee,

My name is Maulian Dana and I am from the Penobscot Nation where I serve as the Tribal Ambassador.

I am testifying in support of LD 1231 An Act Concerning Climate and Community Investment Projects.

Over the past couple of years I have been able to do work in my capacity as Ambassador that focuses on climate, equity, community, racial and environmental justice, and tribal sovereignty. The nature of being involved in the various aspects of work on each of these is seeing where they intersect. This bill would be a measure that supports multiple equity and climate factors at once and does so in a way that holds up vulnerable populations while focusing on the sacred protection of the environment that we all depend on.

Frontline communities are sections of our population that may be the least represented in government systems but feel the effects of the climate crisis the hardest. By advocating for equity in hiring and fair wages for these projects we are doing a great service to these frontline communities and by supporting their rights we are improving the conditions of the entire state now and in the future.

Tribal communities in Maine have some of the highest rates of unemployment. There are many factors for this and some are deeply rooted in the lasting legacy of colonization and systemic trauma and oppression. I am always in favor of ways to strengthen our communities and individuals and see this bill as one step towards healing.

Thank you Representative Cuddy, for your leadership on this and thank you all for your time,

Maulian Dana