

Maulian Dana  
Penobscot Nation

Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack and members of the Committee on State and Local Government. It is my honor to submit testimony in support of LD 183: An Act to Establish Juneteenth as a Paid State Holiday. I stand in solidarity with the descendants of the African Americans who were stolen from their homelands, forced into slavery, and had a country built on their backs only to have that country oppress them and forget them for generations after the dehumanization and terror inflicted on them. We have choices as governments and societies as to what we choose to honor. It is my sincere belief that it is a great time for the state of Maine to honor the legacy and promise that was the essence of the Juneteenth freedom. We talk a lot about freedom in America but we are only as free as our most marginalized citizens. I encourage you to stand in solidarity as well and vote ought to pass. Thank you, Maulian Dana, Penobscot Nation Tribal Ambassador and Commissioner on the Permanent Commission on the Status of Indigenous, Racial, and Maine Tribal Populations.