



Testimony of Maine Conservation Voters
Supporting LD 1034

“An Act To Provide Funding To Support the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations”

Before the Committee on State and Local Government

April 14, 2021

Good morning Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlock and members of the State and Local Government Committee. My name is Beth Ahearn, Director of Government Affairs for Maine Conservation Voters (MCV), testifying in support of LD 1034, An Act to Provide Funding to Support the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations. MCV works to make conservation a political priority and to build an inclusive democracy.

The Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations was formed in 2019 to examine racial disparities across all systems and improve opportunities and outcomes for historically disadvantaged racial, indigenous and tribal populations in the State. The Commission existing without any funding amounts to an unfulfilled promise and the important work left to break down systematic racism will not be done.

Several bills introduced this session have assigned new research work for the Commission. In order to carry out research, public engagement, advising the government, and more, the Permanent Commission has submitted this bill for funding to hire staff and cover administrative expenses.

There has never been a more important time for this Commission to do the work it was created to do. Please vote “Ought to Pass” on LD 1034 to ensure that the work can be done. Thank you for your time.