

April 14, 2021

*Testimony of Lauren Hickey supporting*  
**LD 1034, An Act To Provide Funding To Support the Permanent Commission on the Status  
of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations**

Dear Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government,

My name is Lauren Hickey and I am writing in support of LD1034, An Act To Provide Funding To Support the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations. The 2020 report from the Permanent Commission makes it clear: there is a long road ahead of us in Maine to combat systemic racism. The need is urgent to carry out this work. There is no possibility nor justifiable reason for the Permanent Commission to continue without adequate funding. The funding will ensure funding for the paid staff and budget necessary to carry out the important and extensive work of the Commission, including carrying out research, seeking public input, informing the public through a website, and submitting legislation to the legislature.

I have deep respect for those who have championed the work of the Permanent Commission, especially Representative Rachel Talbot Ross, and we must continue to follow her lead.