

Testimony of Vice Chief Richard Silliboy  
In Support of LD 1034  
Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government  
April 14, 2021

Good morning Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. My name is Richard Silliboy and I am the Vice Chief of the Aroostook Band of Micmacs. I have the honor of serving as a commissioner on the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations and I am testifying in support of LD 1034.

On the Permanent Commission, I represent my people and I provide expertise as a leader of the Micmac Tribe. Through my work as a Commissioner, I hope to help improve the relationship between my people and the Maine government.

On the Commission, my time is not paid for. Because of the significant work needed to be done in 2020, we met frequently throughout 2020 without being reimbursed. We are providing expertise and time that is not being paid for. This level of work is necessary, but it is not sustainable, which puts the Commission itself at risk. In order to continue the essential work of the Permanent Commission, our work must be funded.

Funding the Permanent Commission will advance crucial racial equity work in the state of Maine. For these reasons, I hope you will vote "ought to pass" on LD 1034. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I would be happy to answer any questions.