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Hello!

My name is Mia Dawbin. I am a 22 year old lifelong Mainer, having grown up in West Gardiner/Kennebec Valley. I love this state, and I've lived in Machias, Penobscot County, and various places in Kennebec County.

I love the beautiful land that has fallen into our stewardship; the ancestral homeland of the Wabanaki tribes. I love visiting the natural wonders our state surrounds. It's tricky, sometimes, to describe the names of places that are inherently micro aggressive against native people. I would like our state government to consider Wabanaki perspectives on what some of these places should be called. Their languages are important to preserve, and their place names often give us important context surrounding the land we build on. It feels important to know that the Kennebec is historically vital to our communities because of its 'long still water'. The name of Cobbosseeconte Stream seems to be an important reminder to preserve the sturgeon - a species I understand to be fairly unique to our region.

All this to say, I think Wabanaki guidance on which names are culturally respectful and important would be a good move for our state. Please consider this. Thank you.