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Testimony in Support of LD 554, An Act to Create Gaming Equity and Fairness for the Native American Tribes in Maine

Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs my name is Scott Cuddy and I represent House District 98, which is comprised of Frankfort, Searsport, Swanville, and Winterport. I am before you today to testify in support of LD 554, An Act to Create Gaming Equity and Fairness for the Native American Tribes in Maine.

I will be brief and to the point. The citizens of Maine have seen fit to allow gaming in Maine. 20 minutes from my house is the Hollywood Casino in Bangor, and then there's the Oxford Casino in Oxford. The argument about whether or not to allow gaming is over and it is simply an argument over who should be allowed to have access to owning it. Tribes all over the country have that access, but because of a quirk of law Maine tribes have been denied.

I don't know if Maine tribes plan to build gaming facilities, but I do know that they should have the right to. They get the same respect that other federally recognized tribes get.

Tell our citizens that the tribal Nations here are the same as those throughout the country, and that we recognize their sovereignty. I urge this committee to vote Ought to Pass.