

Maine State 132nd Legislature
Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

The Honorable Chief Edward Peter Paul of the Mi'kmaq Nation

Testimony In Support of LD1851,

**“ An Act to Bring Parity Among the Wabanaki Nations Regarding the Generation of
Revenues from Gaming.”
For May 7, 2025.**

kk^wēy', Chairs **Senator Hickman** and **Representative Supica**, and honorable members of the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs.

My name is Edward Peter Paul, and I am the elected Chief of the Mi'kmaq Nation. I have been directed by the Tribal Council to **present testimony in support of LD1851, An Act to Bring Parity Among the Wabanaki Nations Regarding the Generation of Revenues from Gaming.**

To begin, The People of the Mi'kmaq Nation wish to thank this Bill's sponsor, **Senator Rachel Talbot Ross**, and **Representative MALON** for bringing this Bill forward.

This Bill is a long time in coming and speaks to one word. Parity. Parity of the Northern Tribes of Maine with its two Southern Tribes of Maine.

For over ten years now, the Southern Tribes of Maine have been receiving a small percentage of gaming proceeds (distribution from net slot machine income) from Oxford Casino. Although this "allotment" was originally marketed for all of the Wabanaki Nations, only the "Southern Tribes," the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot Nations ultimately designated as recipients.

On more than once occasion, the State Legislature has attempted to correct this oversight, by adjusting the Oxford tribal allocation (FY15, LD555, FY18 LD1590). However, the adjustments either harmed the Southern Tribes (diluted their allotment), or harmed Oxford casino by adding to the total percentage previously charged.

This Bill adds an allowance for the Northern Tribes (Houlton Band of Maliseets & Mi'kmaq Nation) by increasing to the Bangor Casino allowances from 39% to 46%....the same amount that the Oxford casino pays now.

Parity. This Bill would bring parity to the Northern Tribes of Maine and parity between the Casinos as well.

We ask that you vote that LD 1851 Ought to Pass.

Wə̀liwə̀ni,

Edward Peter Paul

Honorable Chief of the Mi'kmaq Nation