

Chandler -

Pinette, Susan

From: Nancy B Chandler <nchandler51@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 11:03 AM
To: JUD
Subject: testimony on Native sovereignty bill, HR1492

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act HR1492

Dear members of the Maine Judiciary Committee,

I am a resident of Topsham, Maine who am expressing my support for implementation of the changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act. Maine tribes, should have the same rights as other American Indian tribes, acting as independent nations within their own territory. This needed change will respect the good management and common sense of native Maine people over stewardship of fish in the Penobscot River, Downeast lakes and lakes of northern Penobscot and Piscataqua Counties. Native Maine peoples have been excellent stewards of these fish resources over thousands of years, maintaining sustainable levels of fish for their subsistence. HR1492 will return to the Penobscot Piscataqua and Houlton Band of Micmacs their full status as independent peoples, fully competent to use and maintain the fish, deer, moose and game bird populations of their territories. Maine people will be able to observe the examples of respect and care given to these other sentient beings by native peoples and their model stewardship of their resources.

I am grateful to the Mills administration for elevating the status of native peoples so they may regain authority over their tribal lands and be treated as equals by Maine citizens.

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