STAND UP FOR WABANAKI TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY
An opportunity to put our UU Faith into Action
Change our legacy with the Wabanaki Peoples

First Parish's Wabanaki Ally Team needs your help! We're contacting state legislators to support 2021 legislation that negotiates amendments to the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act. This Act has put the Wabanaki tribes in a category separate from all other federally-recognized tribes in the U.S.; it has stifled the Tribes right to self determination and caused both cultural and economic hardship

As Unitarian Universalists, this is our issue, too. The tribes in the land we call Maine (Penobscot Nation, Passamaquoddy Tribe, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and Aroostook Band of Micmacs) deserve the rights, privileges, powers, duties and immunities ascribed to all other federally recognized Indian tribes. The Wabanaki Ally team believes this is not an instance of our state granting rights but rather restoring rights long due to the tribes.

Recommended by a bipartisan legislative task force in 2020, these include:

- LD 1626 "And Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act"
- LD 1568 "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act" and
- LD 585, " An Act To Restore to the Penobscot Nation and Passamaquoddy Tribe the Authority To Exercise Jurisdiction under the Federal Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010"

These bills will amend the 1980 Act to bring it more into compliance with current Federal Indian law and help provide the same or similar sovereignty to the Maine Wabanaki tribes as that of the other 500 tribes in the United States.

For a link to a template email you can send to your legislator and for talking points in support of the bills, please click here.

For more information on our legislative efforts and how you can help, please contact Barbara Brown brown.barbaras@yahoo.com or Leslie Runser at willard61@me.com.