

- My name is _____ and I am a member of _____ church in_____.
- asking you to support passage of the Wabanaki sovereignty bills before the legislature:
 - 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 amend the 1980 “Act to Implement the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act” to allow the 4 Wabanaki tribes Maine (Penobscot Nation, Passamaquoddy Tribe, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and Aroostook Band of Micmacs) rights similar to all other 570 federally recognized tribes in the U.S.
- Maine settlement act explicitly exempted Maine tribes from any laws passed by Congress for the benefit of Indian tribes after 1980.
 - This means that while the more than 500 other federally recognized tribes can take advantage of the policies and services conferred through more than 100 federal laws passed since 1980, Maine tribes have been left out or forced to access them through the state.
 - puts the Wabanaki tribes in a category separate from all other federally-recognized tribes in the U.S. and has stifled the Tribes' right to self determination, causing both cultural and economic hardship.
- as a Unitarian Universalist, am motivated by the dedication of my faith tradition to justice, equity, and compassion in all human relations and to the inherent worth and dignity of all people.
- Amending the 1980 Act is the just and equitable thing to do. The Wabanaki tribes deserve the rights, privileges, powers, duties and immunities ascribed to all other federally recognized Indian tribes.
 - passage of LD 1626, LD 1568, and LD 585 is a moral imperative to begin to restore the Wabanaki peoples' sovereignty and right to self determination
- I urge you to vote to pass the bills into law.
- Thank you for your consideration.

