

*129th Legislature*  
*Senate of*  
*Maine*  
*Senate District 12*

*Senator David Miramant*  
*3 State House Station*  
*Augusta, ME 04333-0003*  
*(207) 236-4845*  
*David.Miramant@legislature.maine.gov*

February 14, 2020

Testimony Supporting LD 2094  
An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on  
Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act

Good afternoon Sen. Carpenter, Rep. Bailey and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Dave Miramant, and I proudly represent all of the people of Appleton, Camden, Criehaven, Cushing, Friendship, Hope, Isle au Haut, Matinicus, Muscle Ridge Islands, North Haven, Owl's Head, Rockland, Rockport, South Thomaston, St. George, Thomaston, Union, Vinalhaven and Warren in the Maine Senate.

I come before you today to support LD 2094, "An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act."

During my time in the Legislature, I learned that the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act took away inherent rights of Maine tribes. The negotiations over that law should never have included sovereignty, which is recognized under federal law.

I applaud the task force for its work to right this wrong, because Maine law should support our tribes, not interfere with their sovereignty. This bill would bring Maine law into line with federal law, which recognizes the sovereignty of tribes across the country. Our tribes here in Maine should be protected in the same way. LD 2094 would help do that, benefiting our tribes and all Maine people.

As chair of the Marine Resources Committee, I know that if this bill becomes law, that won't resolve all issues of sovereignty in Maine waters. My committee looks forward to serving as a constructive partner to the state and the tribes to resolve any conflicts that arise.

Thank you for your consideration, and I'm glad to answer any questions.