

February 22, 2021

Hon. James Dill

Hon. Scott Landry

Co-Chairpersons

Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Maine State Legislature

Augusta, ME

Dear Senate Chair Dill and House Chair Landry:

My name is Clarissa Sabattis, and I am the Chief of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians. I submit this testimony in support of LD 361- "An Act to Establish a Permanent Appointment of a Member of the Wabanaki Tribes to the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Council".

The decisions and activities of Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife have impacts on the natural resources for which not only the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, but all of Wabanaki Tribes have been stewards of for thousands of years. Inclusion of the tribes by adding a voice to the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Council is a crucial and positive step in the tribal/state relationship here in Maine.

We are all engaged in the paramount work of maintaining equilibrium between human activity and mother nature's impacts on our treasured Natural Resources. This is an opportunity to include this area's longest inhabitants as part of the collective voices working towards the common goal of protecting fish and wildlife within our territories and the state of Maine.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today.