



# Maine Coast Heritage Trust

*A Statewide Land Conservation Organization*

## **Testimony in Support of LD 342: An Act To Establish a Permanent Appointment of a Member of the Wabanaki Tribes to the Marine Resources Advisory Council**

Senator Miramant, Representative McCreight, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources, my name is Jeff Romano. I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Maine Coast Heritage Trust in support of LD 342.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust conserves and stewards Maine's coastal lands and islands for their renowned scenic beauty, ecological value, outdoor recreational opportunities, and contribution to community well-being. We provide statewide conservation leadership through our work with land trusts, coastal communities, and other partners. Over the past four decades, we have conserved more than 150,000 acres in Maine.

By establishing a permanent seat for the Wabanaki Tribes on the Marine Resources Advisory Council, LD 342 would add a valuable perspective to the existing council. Among its duties, "The council shall give the commissioner information and advice concerning the administration of the department and carry out other duties specifically delegated by marine resources' laws."

Built upon a foundation of knowledge gained over millennia, the Wabanaki expertise would add tremendous value to the council's deliberations and greatly enhance their efforts to provide the Commissioner with support in the management of the state's marine resources. MCHT strongly encourages the committee to unanimously support this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.