

Maine Climate Action **NOW!**

To: Maine Legislature Committee on Judiciary

From: Amy Eshoo, Director, Maine Climate Action Now

Date: March 6, 2023

Re: LD 78: RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to Article X of the Constitution of Maine Regarding the Publication of Maine Indian Treaty Obligations - OUGHT TO PASS

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Committee on Judiciary, my name is Amy Eshoo. I am a resident of North Yarmouth and Director of Maine Climate Action Now, a statewide coalition of 15 social justice and climate justice grassroots organizations. We support transformative action in response to the climate crisis. We hold social, racial, and economic justice as critical to the transition to zero carbon emissions by 2030.

I would like to thank the sponsor of this bill, Speaker Talbot Ross, for bringing it forth. As an organization we support bringing equity forward so that we as a state can move forward together in the face of the climate crisis.

We recognize that it does not appear that the amendment of 1876, removing Article X, Section 5 from printed copies of the Constitution, was intended to take away any rights from Maine's tribal communities. The amendment and the hiding of the language about the State's duties and obligations did not actually change the State's relationship with tribes. We feel that what is important today is transparency and accountability in state/tribal relations. It is important to Maine Climate Action Now that recognition of the Maine/Wabanaki relationship and history be reflected in making Article X, Section 5 visible. We believe that recognizing the complex history of treaties, negotiations, and power inequalities is important.

We urge the Committee to vote Ought to Pass for LD 78. Thank you.

Amy Eshoo
Maine Climate Action Now
LD 78

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