

_____, 2020

Letter of Commitment to Participation in First Light Learning Journey Cohort 2020 - 2021

Dear Peter and Ciona:

This letter documents the commitment of [organization name]_____ to full participation in the 2020 – 2021 Cohort of the First Light Learning Journey, which is working to build awareness and understanding of Wabanaki present, past and future throughout the conservation community in Maine as an important component of building momentum towards the First Light goal of expanding Wabanaki access to and stewardship of land. This letter recognizes that Wabanaki Leaders and Community Members engaged with the First Light Learning Journey requested that the conservation community demonstrate written commitment to participation in the whole phase, not just occasional events.

Begun in 2017, First Light has deliberately and quietly worked towards building connections among the Wabanaki and the conservation community in Maine. This Second Cohort of the Learning Journey aims to expand the circle, including private and public land-holding entities and entities that work closely with them. The goals are to build awareness among more of these groups about Indigenous land loss, to develop and practice equitable principles for Native engagement, and to create new tools to share land and resources. Another goal is to broaden and increase the number of entities or landowners who might be willing and able to facilitate or convey access rights, to facilitate repatriation of land, and to work with Wabanaki Tribal communities to help them acquire new lands.

This Cohort is anticipated to begin in September 2020 and would involve approximately 12 days of time for participation in all components, ending with a gathering in June of 2021. As part of this commitment, the staff or Board members participating _____ will also keep [organization]_____ appraised of this work and progress.

[Possible statement of organizational mission, strategic plan or reasoning of why committed to this].
[organization]_____ is honored to commit to participation in this important work from now through the June 2021 gathering.

Sincerely,

Organization President, Executive Director or Board Chair