

Senator David Miramant
Rep. Genevieve McDonald
Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources
100 State House Station
Augusta ME 04333
February 26, 2021

Dear Senator Miramant, Representative MacDonalD, and distinguished members of the MR committee,

We would like to express our strong support for LD #342, An Act To Establish a Permanent Appointment of a Member of the Wabanaki Tribes to the Marine Resources Advisory Council, sponsored by Representative Rena Newell.

As you know, the Advisory Council provides information and advice to the Commissioner of the Department of Marine Resources and reviews the research which guides marine resource policies. In establishing the Advisory Council, the legislature took care to ensure representation from a wide range of interests, reflecting the complexity of the marine ecosystem and the many ways Maine people derive a living from it.

We are in the homeland of The Wabanaki, the People of the Dawn, who traditionally relied on hunting, fishing, and gathering to meet their subsistence needs, for perhaps as long as 12,000 years. Their harvests were sustainable, as early European explorers reported an abundance of fish. Clearly, the Wabanaki perspective would be valuable in ensuring the future of our marine resources.

Adding a 16th member to the Advisory Council to represent the Wabanaki makes tremendous sense. Importantly, the Wabanaki nominee would be subject to the same review by your committee and confirmation by the legislature as all other members. Participation would rotate among members of individual tribes.

Supporting LD 342 is one reasonable step to recognize the unique perspective of our Wabanaki neighbors, with the potential to improve not only marine resource management, but also the relationship between indigenous peoples and the state. We encourage you to support the bill.

Sincerely,

Mary Brennan, Hancock
Jocelyn W. Hubbell, Pittston
Julie Isbill, Brunswick
Lucy McCarthy, Vinalhaven
Jennifer Melville, Freeport
Juanita Roushdy, Bremen

Eliza Townsend, Maine Conservation Policy
Director
Appalachian Mountain Club



John R. Manganello | President |



Sean Mahoney, Executive Vice President
Conservation Law Foundation



Ella McDonald, Program Manager
First Light



Aaron Dorrity, Executive Director
Frenchman Bay Conservancy



Don Hudson, ME NGO Representative
Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine
Environment
Arrowsic



Maureen Drouin, Executive Director
Maine Conservation Voters



Jeanne Christie, President
Maine Wilderness Guides Organization



Lissa Widoff, Interim Executive Director
Midcoast Conservancy



Don Lyons, Director of Conservation Science
National Audubon Society



Muhidin Libah, Executive Director
Somali Bantu Community Association



Tom Duffus, Vice President & Northeast
Representative



Amy Titcomb, Board President
Three Rivers Land Trust



Betsy Cook, Maine State Program Director
Trust for Public Land



