



Maine Youth for Climate Justice, the Maine Sunrise Movement Hubs and Maine Youth Climate Strike's Testimony for LD 2094 to Judiciary Committee February 14, 2020

Maine Youth for Climate Justice, which includes the Hubs of the Maine Sunrise Movement and Maine Youth Climate Strikes make up a statewide coalition of over 200 youth (up to age 30) from all over Maine that fights for climate justice, bold and urgent climate action, and a just transition. As a coalition we strive to honor the voices of those historically excluded from the political conversation.

We stand here today in solidarity with the Penobscot Nation, the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and the Aroostook Band of Micmacs to support LD 2094 An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act before this Judiciary Committee.

The tribes in the land we call Maine deserve the rights, privileges, powers, duties and immunities similar to those of other federally recognized Indian tribes within the United States. We understand that this is not an instance of our state granting their rights but rather restoring their rights and some of their sovereignty that was taken away by the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act.

In order for us all to face the challenge of the climate crisis we all need to be aware of the inequities visited on our indigenous communities in our past, and to bring equity forward so that we can move forward. It is the right thing to do for ourselves and our state of Maine. We urge the Judiciary Committee to vote ought to pass.