

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather in Maine, is the ancestral and unceded territory of the Wabanaki Nations — the Penobscot Nation (Penawapskewi), Passamaquoddy Tribe (Peskotomuhkati), Mi'kmaq Nation, and Maliseet (Wolastoqiyik) peoples, who are collectively known as the *People of the Dawnland*. These Nations have lived on and cared for this land, its waterways, and surrounding landscapes since time immemorial, long before the establishment of current borders and communities. 1

Lands in Maine are historically tied to Wabanaki settlement and travel, where kinship networks thrived for generations. 2

We recognize the historical and ongoing impacts of colonization — including forced displacement, broken treaties, and cultural erasure – and affirm that Indigenous peoples continue to live, lead, and contribute to the cultural, environmental, judicial, and social life of this place today. 3

We honor the witness, resilience, and stewardship of Wabanaki Nations past, present, and future, and commit ourselves to learning, reflection, and meaningful partnerships that support their rights, sovereignty, and well-being.

We encourage everyone here to learn more about individual Wabanaki cultures and histories, support their organizations, and consider how our work and community life can reflect, respect, reciprocate, and encourage justice for all. 4

Sources:

1. University of Maine at Augusta
2. Colby Museum
3. Natural Resources Council of Maine
4. MEA BiPOC Committee