

115 Franklin Street, 3rd Floor Bangor, ME 04401

207-945-9200 tel 207-945-9229 fax

www.fsmaine.org info@fsmaine.org

Letter of Commitment to First Light Conservation Community Delegation on Wabanaki Land Access and Land Issues

This letter reflects the commitment of the Forest Society of Maine (FSM) to serve as a member of the Conservation Community Delegation on Wabanaki Land and Water Access and Stewardship.

Wabanaki Leaders and Community Members engaged with the First Light Journey have requested that the conservation community form a similarly sized Delegation to work with the Wabanaki Task Force being formed. Attached is a working document outlining the initial set of goals of such a Delegation.

This Delegation is envisioned to meet mostly by phone but occasionally in person, approximately every 6 weeks or a total of about nine times a year, plus approximately 2 hours a week work time on products or other aspects. Understanding that, FSM commits that a staff person, currently Kristin Peet (Forestland Conservation Specialist) will represent FSM on this Delegation at least until June of 2021 for up to but no more than the anticipated hourly commitment. As part of this role, Kristin will keep FSM appraised of this work and progress.

Since its inception, the mission of the Forest Society of Maine has been to "conserve Maine's forestlands to sustain their ecological, economic, cultural, and recreational values." FSM recognizes cultural values in Maine references not only Maine's long timber and logging industry, but the Wabanaki tribes that call this place home. We consider the Wabanaki to be valuable partners as we all work together to conserve land and water across the state with willing landowners, and are dedicated to learning and building meaningful relationships with the Wabanaki of Maine. FSM is honored to commit to continued participation in this important work.

Sincerely,

Karin Tilberg

Executive Director, Forest Society of Maine

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