



Letter of Commitment

The Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire (SELT) conserves and stewards land for the benefit of people and nature in New Hampshire in Rockingham and Strafford counties. SELT's mission is to protect and sustain the significant lands in our communities for clean water, outdoor recreation, fresh food, wildlife, and healthy forests. SELT's conserved lands are located on N'dakinna, which is the traditional ancestral homeland of the Abenaki, Pennacook and Wabanaki Peoples past and present.

We acknowledge and honor with gratitude the land and waterways and the alnobak (people) who have stewarded N'dakinna throughout the generations. We also acknowledge that these Indigenous peoples are still present, that their culture and connection to the lands in our region persists, and that our work should aim to support that connection.

This letter of commitment serves as a statement of intention by SELT to First Light, following participation of two board members and one staff member in First Light's learning journey opportunities. Throughout this letter, we refer to both Abenaki and Wabanaki partnerships – we seek to partner with Abenaki people and also remain committed to cultivating partnerships with the broader Wabanaki communities, and remain open to engaging with other Indigenous groups near our service area.

Organizational Commitments

SELT acknowledges the vastness of this work and how much we will undoubtedly learn as we continue to increase our depth of understanding. We also recognize that we can and must actively engage despite having more to learn. To that point, we share the current organizational commitments below with an intention for them to evolve appropriately in relationship and community contexts moving forward.

SELT commits to:

- **Build authentic, lasting relationships with Wabanaki partners.** SELT commits to continue to examine and grow our ability to approach our work of “saving, stewarding, sharing, and sustaining” lands in ways that respect and support Wabanaki priorities, perspectives, and worldviews. We commit to continue dedicating time and attention to furthering our organizational growth in this area.
- **Maintain a connection to the First Light conservation community,** including designating our internal working group as a continual liaison with First Light. SELT recognizes the immense opportunity and benefit of being able to join and build from the foundation and framework established by First Light and commits to continuing to engage in opportunities to learn as an organization.
- **Continue to seek knowledge about how we can make lands welcoming in ways that are culturally relevant for Wabanaki people** including sharing learnings, stories, and information with our staff and board.
- **Actively pursue opportunities to understand and provide a space to share Wabanaki narratives and stories,** which could include guest speakers, recommended readings, land acknowledgments, signage, etc.

While the work outlined in this letter will be ongoing, we expect to revisit our progress and commitment to this work in two years. We understand the longevity and depth of this work and are sincerely looking forward to the path ahead and what we might create together.

Approved by the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire (SELT) Board of Directors on July 16, 2026