



Maine Conservation Voters
Inform. Vote. Protect.



Maine Conservation Alliance
The United Voice for Maine's Environment

First Light Learning Journey Community Letter, 2024-2025 Cohort

October 23, 2024

Dear Ellie,

We appreciate the opportunity for Maine Conservation Voters and Maine Conservation Alliance to continue its First Light Learning Journey by participating in the 2024-2025 cohort. We're eager to keep learning about the Wabanaki present, past and future; the connection between the Wabanaki and Maine's conservation community; and how to expand Wabanaki access to and stewardship of land.

Organizationally and individually, we're committed to fully participating in the program and to working toward systemic change to enable this work of return. After making support for self-determination, land return, and tribal sovereignty a key value in our 2024-2026 strategic plan, MCV and MCA is building on that commitment by organizing one of our four core, long term campaigns around support for tribal sovereignty and land return. We also continue to strive towards the goals articulated in our first Community Letter from 2020.

Additionally, as part of our commitment, staff members Kathleen Meil, Maggie Somers, and Nick Janzen and MCV and MCA board member Sara Freshley will keep MCV and MCA apprised of this Learning Journey in several ways, including providing regular updates to staff and board members, organizing reviews and discussions of course materials, and engaging in continued trainings through Wabanaki REACH.

We're honored to participate in this important work and look forward to cohort's first meeting in November.

Sincerely,

Nick Janzen
Maggie Somers
Kathleen Meil
Sara Freshley