

Colin Vettier
Portland
LD 2007

Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Colin Vettier and I live in Portland. I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

As a new citizen, I would like to underline how important it is to me that we move forward all first nations' self-determination. As I chose to call Maine my new home, I also acknowledge what this choice implies as we are living on occupied land.

Can we really say that we value freedom, justice, and the pursuit of happiness when the original inhabitant of this land are denied their right to self determination? Do we really value democracy, when we continue to undermine the rights of the Wabanaki Nations?

Beside the moral aspect, I would like to highlight that researchers estimate that restoring self-governance capabilities for the Wabanaki Nations would result in the direct and indirect addition of more than 2,700 new jobs – 85% of which would be gained by the tribes' neighbors in rural Maine. It would also add an estimated \$330 million each year to Maine's gross domestic product, with the benefits of this growth concentrated in rural and economically deprived portions of Aroostook, Penobscot, and Washington counties.

I hope that my testimony in support of LD 2007 will convince you that Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations is the right thing.

Thank you.