

Sarah Lentz
Portland
LD 2007

My name is Sarah Lentz and I live in Portland Maine. I am writing to communicate my unequivocal support of LD 2007 and to request your support.

When I moved to Maine from the Midwest in 2002, I did so because Maine felt like home to me. I loved the way people here valued one another, placed importance on community, and always looked out for one another. Over time, I have been surprised to learn that these values do not expand to our Indigenous neighbors, the original stewards of this land.

As I've learned more and more about the work of the Permanent Commission and the tribal history in Maine, it has become increasingly clear to me (and I hope you too) that passing LD2007 is not only the right thing to do, but its passage will send a message that will deeply impact us all. For Maine tribes, restoring sovereignty will allow them to be treated the same as the other 570 federally recognized tribes. It will give them the full rights to support their communities in ways that only they know. It will show them that you recognize what wonderful stewards of this land they have been and that you respect their ability to continue to do this and show the rest of us how to be in right-relationship with the land.

For the rest of Mainers, passing this piece of legislation shows that you take racial equity seriously and you understand the benefits that come with doing so. It shows those from other marginalized communities that you value their presence and contributions to Maine and you want them to be part of the rich and vibrant state. It will encourage others to move to Maine, to enrich our workforce and build our economy.

Passing LD 2007 is an essential action to restore and repair Maine's relationship with Maine tribes. I appreciate your consideration and hope you show your commitment to Maine tribes by passing this piece of legislation.

With appreciation,

Sarah Lentz
Portland, Maine