

June & Roy Smoot
Kennebunk
LD 2007

Dear Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen and members of Joint Standing Committee on
Judiciary:

We are passionately writing to support LD 2007, An Act to Advance
Self-Determination for Wabanaki Nations. Tribal sovereignty lives in a black hole in
Maine, unlike in all other 49 states where it shines brightly on 570 federally
recognized tribal nations as they thrive and grow. This is a matter of doing what is
right with incredible pragmatic results for Wabanaki nations and Maine.

On average, other tribal nations have achieved 61% economic growth since 1989
while Wabanaki peoples have grown only 9%. This has led to childhood poverty in
Wabanaki nations ranging from 40% to 77%.

Denial of access to over 120 federal bills since 1980 has negatively impacted
healthcare, tribal jurisdiction on their lands and tribal court jurisdiction in their
nations. LD 2007 will also help create jobs and economic growth for Wabanaki
people and their neighbors, mostly in rural Maine.

Tens of thousands of your fellow Mainers have gone on record to support Wabanaki
Sovereignty, including bipartisan leadership in our Maine Legislature.

You campaigned to do what is right for all people, and now by voting to move LD
2007 to our Legislature, you will take action to keep your promise of doing what is
right for all people.