

Jim Briggs  
North Yarmouth  
LD 2007

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

From: James Briggs, 597 New Gloucester Road, North Yarmouth, Maine

Re: Support for LD 2007, An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki  
Nations.

Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Jim  
Briggs and I live in North Yarmouth.

I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

Please support LD 2007, An Act To Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki  
Nations.

This bill would substantially change the Maine Indian Claims Settlement  
Implementing Act. That Law currently prevent the Wabanaki Nations in Maine from  
exercising their inherent right to self govern. All other Federally recognized tribes in  
the United States have that right under Federal Indian Law.

With a multi-generational property in Topsfield our family has traveled through the  
Passamaquoddy Indian Reservation on the way to Princeton for decades. Sadly, the  
Reservation has been unable to make much progress due to restrictions imposed by  
the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA). I believe passage of LD  
2007 will remove obstacles the Wabanaki Nations in Maine have faced since 1980.

I thank the Committee for taking this testimony. LD 2007 returns the rights of self  
government that became wrongfully restricted, by the 1980 MICSA. LD 2007  
deserves passage!

Respectfully,  
Jim Briggs