

Camilla Beale
Brunswick
LD 2007

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Camilla Beale

I am a resident of Brunswick and am testifying in support of LD 2007

I am a founding member of MIAG (Midcoast Indigenous Awareness Group) and a member of the Episcopal Committee of Indian Relations. Both of these groups seek to understand Wabanaki people, culture, and challenges in greater depth and to become better neighbors.

I believe LD 2007 should become law because the 1980 settlement implementing act, which LD 2007 would amend, has put the Wabanaki tribes in a category separate from all other federally recognized tribes in the U.S. and has stifled the Tribes' right to self-determination, causing both cultural and economic hardship.

About 9 years ago I remember a Wabanaki acquaintance telling me that people from other tribes would frequently approach her with the statement "What happened to you?", referring to the handicaps to economic development and prosperity resulting from our 1980 Claims Act. Indeed those of us who have traveled have noticed that in many other states, despite things not being perfect, Tribal Sovereignty is taken for granted.

I believe the State of Maine has a moral imperative to help restore the Wabanaki peoples' sovereignty and right to self-determination. We have the imperative to do that out of respect for our Wabanaki Neighbors and for our own reputation. I believe that we all will gain from this positive vote.

I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 2007.

Thank you.

Camilla Beale