

Emma Smith  
Old Town  
LD 2007

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

From: Emma Smith, 317 Fourth St. Old Town, ME, 04468

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

Intro: Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name  
is Emma Smith and I live in Old Town, ME. I am here to testify in support of LD  
2007.

Testimony: LD 2007 is a case for tribal sovereignty, overdue justice, equity, women's  
rights, economic growth, and environmental rights. I just moved to Maine from  
California. The tribal nations near my hometown in southern California are  
self-sovereign, as well as the nations I drove through as I crossed the country on my  
way to Maine. I was surprised to learn (only as a result of hearing about LD 2007)  
that the Wabanaki Nations lack the same sovereignty as other tribal nations. This is  
unjust and must be restored. I see no negatives to passing LD 2007. Indigenous  
women will be better-protected against violence-- friends of mine have told me  
rumors of domestic abuse committed against Wabanaki women and children that have  
been overlooked and not deemed "bad enough" by authorities to take legal action  
against. I know this is also a common experience for children in poverty. My mom is  
a second grade teacher in a low-income community in southern California and has  
told me of similar experiences where children show up to school covered in bruises,  
but the police don't take any action against it because the bruises aren't "bad enough"  
to raise concern. LD 2007 promotes economic growth across rural Maine, and will  
bring many families out of dangerous homes while preventing future generations from  
falling into similar situations. Lastly, rural Maine is absolutely beautiful, thanks to  
Wabanaki stewardship. In a time where the natural environment is under attack by  
climate change and policymakers who refuse to take climate change seriously, it is  
crucial that we give more power to tribal governors whom we know will take  
environmental stewardship seriously.

Closing: Thank you, Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing  
Committee on Judiciary, for taking the time to read my testimony. I hope you pass LD  
2007 for the benefit of families and the natural environment in Maine.