

Diane Kew  
Brunswick  
LD 2007

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

My name is Diane P. Kew, a resident of Brunswick, Maine, a member of the Unitarian Universalist faith tradition, and one of the 500 members of the Maine UU State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN, which is testifying separately as an organization in support of this bill). I am testifying in support of LD 2007, the bill to restore the Wabanaki Nations' inherent rights to self-determination.

I am asking, as a descendant of the Europeans who chose to settle here, to embrace this opportunity to set straight the rights our ancestors took away from the Wabanaki—usually by force, sometimes through trickery, and often with ignorance. This was a racist act that assumed that “our” way was the “right” way to live. We then went on to create the 1980 Settlement Implementing Act which further stripped the Wabanaki people’s rights by placing the Wabanaki tribes in a category separate from all other federally recognized tribes in the U.S., thereby stifling the Tribes’ right to self-determination, causing both cultural and economic hardship.

Please do right by the Wabanaki people. While it seems complicated to do so given how we have divvied up land, renamed it, and used it at will, it is really not that complicated at all; if we believe in property ownership, then we should respect the fact that we have taken much property from the Wabanaki people, and we need to make reparations. In fact, I believe the State of Maine has a moral imperative to help restore the Wabanaki peoples’ sovereignty and right to self-determination, and I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 2007.

Thank you.

Diane P. Kew