

Pat Handlin
Keller/Roller Family
LD 2007

Testimony in support of LD 2007, An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations

To: Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary From: Pat Handlin, summer camp on Moosehead Lake, 121 North Road, Rockwood, Maine

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Pat Handlin and my family and I have a summer camp on Moosehead Lake that my uncle used to own. He lived in Cape Elizabeth, Maine. We have the camps because of him. We pay Maine real estate taxes and absolutely love Maine. I am a lawyer, many members of the family are teachers. I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

Due to restrictions imposed by the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA), the Wabanaki Nations have not had full access to federal policies of self-determination and been kept from achieving the significant economic growth experienced by the other 570 federal tribes over the past 40 years who've. Removing those obstacles would help the Wabanaki Nations take advantage of federal self-determination policies, programs and funding that elsewhere in Indian Country led to the creation of thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in goods and services produced by Native businesses. This will help all Mainers.

The Wabanaki have been protecting the environment and maintaining sustainable ecological practices for millennia, long before European settlement of Maine. They will continue to do so; it's their heritage and birthright as Wabanaki peoples. For example, in recent history, the Penobscot Nation collaborated with state and federal agencies and advocated for removing dams from the Penobscot River which have been beneficial to the rivers and Atlantic salmon and other species of fish who now thrive in those waters, heading from the Atlantic to their spawning grounds up the river.

Thank you for reading my comments. Please pass LD 2007

Pat Handlin