

Alexander Myhre
Lewiston
LD 2007

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Alexander Myhre and I live and work in Lewiston. I have lived in Maine for about ten years, with more than half of that in Aroostook County. I am writing in support of LD 2007.

This bill would bring an end to the practice of treating Maine's federally recognized tribes in less favorable terms than is normally seen elsewhere in the country, allowing the members of the Wabanaki Alliance to access the opportunities that other tribes have had for decades. An expansion of tribal sovereignty is expected to lead to increased economic prosperity and new jobs in the regions of the state that need it most. Additionally, it appears that the Wabanaki would finally be able to purchase privately owned land from willing landowners to add to tribal lands. Maine's tribal lands have historically been open to all, with Maine's tribes only posting their lands in rare circumstances, and this would be a win for non-tribal citizens as well. The Wabanaki have repeatedly demonstrated good land stewardship and a dedication to sustainable practices.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony in support of LD 2007. I firmly believe that advancing this bill is the best thing for the people and the state of Maine.