

Emily Walsh
South Portland
LD 2007

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

From: EMILY WALSH, 148 SOUTH RICHLAND ST., SOUTH PORTLAND,
04106

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

Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee,

MY name is Emily Walsh and I live in South Portland). I am here to testify in support
of LD 2007.

Just to location myself: I grew up in Northern Minnesota, where my father worked as
a physician assistant for the self-governing Fon du Lac band of the Lake Superior
Chippewa Tribe. Members of the tribe performed a moving drum ceremony at his
funeral. This bill is personal to me either way—as I stand against inequity and
unfairness, I stand for decolonization—but it's also personal to me due to my ties to
the Fon du Lac tribe.

Indigenous rights in Minnesota are far from where they should be, but tribes in Maine
have many more restrictions to their self-governance than tribes in Minnesota and
several other states. These restrictions limit tribal access to economic growth
opportunities, and their access to a separate judicial system, and just inhibits their
ability to sustain their separate culture in a concrete sense. It's not fair, and I believe
that upholding unfair and oppressive socio-legal structures does harm to to all of
us—indigenous and non-indigenous. We need to create more fair and equitable
structures in order to reclaim our humanity—again, for the good of us all.

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony and for considering (and
hopefully passing) this important bill.

Sincerely,

Emily Walsh