

February 23, 2024

I write this written testimony for the support of our right to sovereignty. For the past 40 years the State of Maine has governed the Wabanaki nations under their umbrella of economic injustice. We as Wabanaki nations residing in this state reclaim our rights that are and were withheld from us for several decades against our will. We have as much right to be recognized as a federal sovereign nation within this state as much as other nations in this country. Withholding this right has had several implications to our economic stability to further ourselves in federal programs, and to expand our economic development. I as a tribal member in this community have seen how each year and several years our representatives have been to this government asking or submitting testimony and documents to restore our inherent right as a sovereign nation, even our past forefathers probably have been here asking for the same treatment only to be denied the same. Why should we as nations in this state come here asking for this right, only to be denied. We, I mean we the tribes within this state should all unite as one government and declare ourselves sovereign, unfold the 1980 land claim settlement as if it never happened. Several treaties in the past have either honored or broken by governments with a blind eye without any consultation with our people. So today is the day to support LD 2007, let us here proclaim this day in history that the tribes in this State become sovereign. Our ancestors are watching as we again are here asking for this bill LD 2007 be accepted by this government. Thank you for this testimony and your support.

Martin Dana

Passamaquoddy Tribe