

Caitlin Marshall  
Portland  
LD 2007

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

From: Caitlin Marshall  
101 Ray Street  
Portland, ME 04103

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  
Caitlin Marshall, and I live in Portland. I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

I support LD 2007 because it is the fair and right thing to do. The legislation will  
address flaws in the 1980 Maine Indian Land Claims Settlement Act that are currently  
obstructing the Wabanaki Nations' inherent right to self-determination.

Personally, I see lots of reasons to support LD 2007: it has bipartisan support, in the  
legislature and from the citizens of Maine. It enacts carefully considered, consensus  
recommendations from a bipartisan task force. It puts the Wabanaki Nations on the  
same footing as 570 other federally recognized tribes. It will lead to economic  
growth, which is a start to addressing the extreme inequality in childhood poverty  
between citizens of Wabanaki Nations and citizens of Maine.

But perhaps the strongest point to me is that we, as the citizens of Maine, have a long,  
long history of denying the basic rights of the original inhabitants of this land we now  
call home. It is an uncomfortable fact, but true: The land Maine encompasses was not  
free for the taking; it was taken by force, and by broken treaties, by decimating the  
population of the Wabanaki Nations through violence, disease, and forced  
displacement. Set against that history, simply recognizing tribal sovereignty, the  
same as hundreds of other tribes, is a relatively small act, but it is nonetheless  
essential.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Caitlin Marshall