

Jody Bachelder
Brunswick
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 Jody Bachelder, 14 Zeitler Farm Road, Brunswick

Thank you for reading my testimony. I am a school librarian, a writer, a mother and a grandmother, and I believe in equity for all people. I don't believe in withholding federal benefits from any Indigenous peoples or standing in the way of self-determination. We have done that for far too long, and the economic and emotional impacts are clear. These policies have harmed the Wabanaki and will continue to do so until we change course.

What is holding us back? I truly don't know. Society prospers when we all do well, not when some rise on the backs of others. The Wabanaki are not wards of the state who need our guidance. So let's get out of their way and maybe we can begin to repair the damage we have been inflicting for 400 years.

Thank you.

Jody Bachelder