

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

From: David Marshall, 298 Goodwin Rd, Eliot, ME 03903

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 David Marshall and I live in Eliot. I am writing in support of LD 2007.

The purpose of LD 2007 is to reconsider and rewrite the outdated Maine Implementing Act in order to establish that the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and the Mi'kmaq Nation have the same rights to self-determination as other federally recognized Indian tribes within the United States. This is primarily a matter of simple equity and fairness. Passage of LD 2007 would begin to help rectify the un-Christian like treating of the natives of Maine for the last several centuries.

The planet and its inhabitants face many existential challenges, and humans need to act together to have any chance of dealing with them effectively. And we need the knowledge and assistance of the indigenous people of the world, including those in Maine, in facing these challenges. Specifically, the Wabanaki have been protecting the environment and maintaining sustainable ecological practices for millennia, long before European settlement of Maine. There is every reason to believe that they will continue to do so; it's their heritage and birthright as Wabanaki peoples.

It's time to bring the Wabanaki people into a full partnership with the descendants of the European and other peoples who presently make Maine their home. This issue has been thoroughly examined by the Tribal State work Group over a decade ago, and more recently debated and rectifying legislation has been passed by several sessions of the Maine Legislature. I urge this Committee, the Maine Legislature--and the Governor--to enact LD 2007 into law this session.

Respectfully submitted,

David Marshall

david marshall
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LD 2007

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