

February 23, 2024

To: Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
From: Gail Witherill, Cumberland Maine
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 Gail Witherill and I live in Cumberland. I am writing in support of LD 2007.

There are many reasons to support LD 2007, not the least of which is that it is clear from last year's Harvard report that our Wabanaki Nations have been falling behind economically compared to other federally recognized tribes due to the constrictions of Maine's 1980 Settlement Act. Health outcomes as well as educational outcomes have also been behind those of federally recognized tribes. It is past time to remove the shackles holding back the Wabanaki tribes of Maine. Self-determination is important for the Wabanaki Nations but it is also important to the State of Maine. A rising tide floats all boats.

I ask you to say YES to LD 2007. It is the right thing to do.

Thank you for your time and consideration of LD 2007.

Sincerely,

Gail Witherill

Gail Witherill
Cumberland Center
LD 2007

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