

Darcy Duda
Gardiner ME
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: Darcy Duda, 7 West Hill Terrace, Gardiner ME 04345

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Darcy and I live in Gardiner, ME. I am a farmer, writer, and artist, and I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

My support of LD 2007 is rooted in fairness and equity. We should be treating the Wabanaki Nations with respect, an open mind, and listening ears. The Nations are asking for the ability to self govern and rights that have been granted to other nations and tribes across the United States. Voting YES on this bill will give these Nations the economic opportunities owed to them, and will be a step toward fair treatment that has been denied.

Native Land Digital shows that I live and farm on land stolen from the Wabanaki. Most of us in Maine, and the US, also live on stolen land. If you eat local food, hike in local woods, or enjoy natural resources in your area, you live on and benefit from land that was stolen from those who tended it for generations. You can learn who the land you live on belongs to here: <https://native-land.ca/>.

The very least we can do is listen to what the Nations are telling us, and give them what they ask for. In the face of all the history we carry with us, the Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations does not ask for much.

Please listen. Please be kind. Please take this opportunity to do the right thing by approving LD 2007. I stand with the Wabanaki Nations, as do thousands of Mainers. I hope you will vote YES and stand with us.