

Greg Shute
Alna
LD 2007

To: Senator Carny, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee

From: Greg Shute, 685 Head Tide Hill Rd, Alna ME 04535

RE: Support for LD 2007 An Act to Advance Self Determination for Wabanaki Nations

Now is the time to fully support our Wabanaki Neighbors! That is why I write in support of LD 2007 a bill to restore the inherent rights of the Wabanaki Nations.

More so than ever before Maine people are learning the accurate history of the immeasurable harm that we as colonizers have done to our Wabanaki Neighbors beginning at the time of first contact with Europeans. Yet the resilient Wabanaki are still here and they are still not fully recognized.

The overwhelming majority of all people of Maine support our Wabanaki Neighbors and passing this bill is a recognition that we are beginning a new era of partnership with the Wabanaki.

A yes vote provides the Wabanaki a fair playing ground and the ability to address a high child poverty rate in the indigenous communities..

A yes vote is fair and equitable so that the Wabanaki can work toward the same economic success as 570 federally recognized tribes. When the Wabanaki thrive we all thrive.

There is great interest in Cultural Tourism and the Wabanaki as the first Guides are beginning to realize success in cultural tourism and will make their homeland a world class destination to learn about the Wabanaki Culture.

We are fortunate to live in the Wabanaki Homeland and this Homeland has been maintained through sustainable practices by the Wabanaki for thousands of years and we owe nothing less than to pass this Bill in recognition of that fact.

It is time to correct the wrongs of the 1980 Settlement Act and hundreds of years of history and Pass LD 2007.

Thank you Senator Carney and Representative Moonen and Members of the Committee.

Greg Shute
Alna Maine