

Nicole d'Entremont

LD 2007

To: Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

From: Nicole d'Entremont  
45 Pleasant Ave, Peaks Island  
04108

Re: Support for LD, 2007, An Act to Advance Self-Determination for Wabanaki Nations

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Nicole d'Entremont and I wish to add my support of LD 2007.

I am a retired teacher who started her career in Maine in the mid 70's teaching basic literacy out of Washington County Vocational Technical Institute. The Maine that existed at that time is not the same Maine we are living in 2024. Education and a willingness to struggle and accept cultural diversity and changing social attitudes has made marked improvements especially among younger Mainers. One of these attitudes is that of tribal sovereignty.

There are over 500 federal tribes that have sovereignty recognized by the United States of America. It is a complete embarrassment that we are not one of them. This is 2024 and the general acceptance of sovereignty has evolved. The passing of LD 2007 will finally reflect that change and should not be voided by a veto.

The idea that it is better to dole out dribs and drabs of legislative wins to tribal members betrays a demeaning and paternalistic attitude. Listen to your children. The younger generation understands fairness. Fretting about "future" lawsuits and whether the tribes will gobble up real estate betrays a mind set that does no credit to us. We can do better than our own past. We have bigger hearts than that, and it's way past time to correct this historical injustice. It's time to finally grant sovereignty.

Sincerely,  
Nicole d'Entremont