

23/February/2024

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

My name is John MacKinnon and I live in Eliot, ME. I am also the Executive Director of Shamanic Voyages Inc., a nonprofit educational organization and an ordained minister. Much of my work is to recognize and support Indigenous communities and their spiritual traditions.. I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

The federal self determination policies in effect throughout most of the rest of the United States have permitted many Native American Indigenous communities to achieve economic growth and political recognition, improving their quality of life and empowering them to present and share their distinct identities as valued members of American society. The *1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act, (MICSA)*, has stood as an impediment to the Wabanaki Nations of Maine enjoying these same opportunities. It is time to remedy this injustice.

I support the proposed changes to the MICSA legislation and will be following the voting on February 26. I strongly believe you should support these changes as well.

Thank you for your taking the time to acknowledge my concerns and to consider the ethical importance of this bill.

Respectfully, Rev. John MacKinnon

John MacKinnon  
Eliot, ME  
LD 2007

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