

**To:** Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary  
**From:** Emilie Eames, 5 Pond Shore Drive, Cumberland, 04021  
**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 Emilie Eames and I live in Cumberland. I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

As a resident of Maine and as someone who cares deeply about creating an equitable future, I urge you to vote YES on LD 2007. The findings from the Harvard report, “Economic and Social Impacts of Restrictions on the Applicability of Federal Indian Policies to the Wabanaki Nations in Maine” clearly outline the ways the development of the Wabanaki Nations’ economies and governmental capacities have been stunted – impacting economic and social progress for both native and non-native citizens alike. If you haven’t read the report or viewed an overview, I highly recommend watching one, either from Maine Philanthropy Center (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVkJ9bpE8g>) or Maine Conservation Voters (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-wYNlsGXLY>). Top takeaways from the report can be found here: <https://www.wabanakialliance.com/harvard-report-top-10/>.

As sovereign nations, the Wabanaki nations have the right to self-determination and self-governance. By taking up LD 2007 and implementing the recommendations of the bipartisan task force, you would be affirming the inherent rights of the Wabanaki nations.

Not only is this the right thing to do, but thousands of Mainers and hundreds of Maine organizations and businesses are in support of this decision. The [Wabanaki Alliance Tribal Coalition](#) shows the commitment of Mainers across the state who believe Wabanaki communities have the right to self-governance.

The obstacles that have come as a direct result of MISCA on the tribal communities in Maine are not only inequitable, they do not represent the state that I call home. I hope that our state legislators will do the right thing for our Indigenous communities by voting yes. Thank you to the committee members for taking the time to read my testimony.