

TO: Sen. Anne Carney, Rep. Matt Moonen
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Deborah A. Smith and Reginald W. Dyche
10 Shoreland Drive, Apt. #306. Belfast, ME 04915

RE: Support for LD 2007

We write in support of LD 2007, An Act to Advance the Wabanaki Nations' inherent rights to self-determination. We were profoundly ashamed of the veto Governor Mills made in 2023 against passage of the bipartisan LD 2004 bill. We urge your action now to mitigate the embarrassment of Maine being the only state that has failed to uphold basic issues of Indigenous sovereignty that the Federal government has granted.

As non-native settlers who live on the ancestral lands of the Wabanaki, we want to note that our personal discomfort from this embarrassment is secondary to the real emotional, intellectual, and spiritual harm to the people who have lived here for more than 10,000 years. We refuse to ignore that wrongful history and its ongoing ill effects. Passage of LD 2007 would not resolve every issue we face going forward to repair the damage but it is an essential first step to help us begin.

Despite the horrific legacies of colonialism, erasure, discriminatory policies, appropriation, and genocidal actions against Wabanaki people, every person living in Maine today benefits from their centuries-long stewardship of an exceptional natural environment. The restoration of self-determination is the minimal action the present generation must take to profess our gratitude for the continued Wabanaki presence, knowledge and respect for the natural world, which are integral to this landscape we now call Maine.

It is especially ironic that the People of the Dawn are now living in the dark shadow of injustice and unfairness that arises when self-reliance and self-rule are denied. Please listen to the voices of the Wabanaki tribes and their many allies by supporting LD 2007 in numbers that will resoundingly override any possible veto from the Governor.

Thank you for your attention and your help in restoring a broken partnership with the Wabanaki, which serves only to hurt everyone in Maine.

Deborah Smith
Belfast
LD 2007

TO: Sen. Anne Carney, Rep. Matt Moonen
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
Smith and Reginald W. Dyche
10 Shoreland Drive, Apt. #306. Belfast, ME 04915
RE: Support for LD 2007

We write in support of LD 2007, An Act to Advance the Wabanaki Nations' inherent rights to self-determination. We were profoundly ashamed of the veto Governor Mills made in 2023 against passage of the bipartisan LD 2004 bill. We urge your action now to mitigate the embarrassment of Maine being the only state that has failed to uphold basic issues of Indigenous sovereignty that the Federal government has granted.

As non-native settlers who live on the ancestral lands of the Wabanaki, we want to note that our personal discomfort from this embarrassment is secondary to the real emotional, intellectual, and spiritual harm to the people who have lived here for more than 10,000 years. We refuse to ignore that wrongful history and its ongoing ill effects. Passage of LD 2007 would not resolve every issue we face going forward to repair the damage but it is an essential first step to help us begin.

Despite the horrific legacies of colonialism, erasure, discriminatory policies, appropriation, and genocidal actions against Wabanaki people, every person living in Maine today benefits from their centuries-long stewardship of an exceptional natural environment. The restoration of self-determination is the minimal action the present generation must take to profess our gratitude for the continued Wabanaki presence, knowledge and respect for the natural world, which are integral to this landscape we now call Maine.

It is especially ironic that the People of the Dawn are now living in the dark shadow of injustice and unfairness that arises when self-reliance and self-rule are denied. Please listen to the voices of the Wabanaki tribes and their many allies by supporting LD 2007 in numbers that will resoundingly override any possible veto from the Governor.

Thank you for your attention and your help in restoring a broken partnership with the Wabanaki, which serves only to hurt everyone in Maine.