

Rebecca Roberts  
Biddeford  
LD 2007

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

From: Rebecca Roberts, 8 East Brook Lane, Biddeford, ME 04005

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,

As a lifelong resident of Maine and the daughter of a conservationist, I have spent my life developing awareness and appreciation for the land that surrounds us and our human need to connect with it. I am fortunate to have easy access to public beach, trails and waterways and have benefitted from a sense of community and shared pride in place. I recognize this is not the truth for our Wabanaki neighbors on whose ancestral land we occupy. I am writing in support of LD 2007 which would help right the unintended wrongs that resulted from the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act including restoring tribal sovereignty to the same federally recognized status of every other state in the country. It is essential that the obstacles to Wabanaki health, education and economic well-being be removed, and that self-determination be restored - it is long overdue. The Wabanaki Nations have been careful stewards and advocates for Maine land and wildlife for over ten thousand years. Their wisdom and voices are needed now more than ever, and it is our responsibility as neighbors to listen. I support Wabanaki self-determination and any effort toward acknowledgement and reparation. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Rebecca Roberts  
Trustee, Kennebunkport Conservation Trust