

Monica Grabin
KENNEBUNK
LD 2007

To: Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on
Judiciary

From: Monica Grabin, 137 Sea Road, Kennebunk, 04043

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

To: Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee, I wish to
testify in support of LD 2007.

I enthusiastically support the passage of LD 2007, which would provide Maine's
Native tribes the full sovereignty which they have always deserved. Since the passage
of the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA), the tribes of Maine have
been unable to access the numerous Federal laws and policies that have been passed
in the last 40 years, and which have contributed to economic growth and advancement
for the 570 other nationally-recognized tribes. These laws and regulations have helped
other tribes in raising their standard of living, improving health care, increasing their
income, and increasing the well-being of their children. In contrast, the children of
Maine's tribes have suffered under the highest poverty rates in the state.

I believe that the Native tribes of Maine have a unique connection to the land that was
taken from them and that they have a tremendous role to play in conservation and
preservation of Maine's natural heritage. Their unique contribution should be
welcomed, and encouraged, which would be a benefit to everyone who loves this
state.

Thank you to all the members of this committee. I strongly encourage you to vote for
LD 2007 to restore full tribal sovereignty to the tribes of Maine. Vote to recognize
their right to be equal members of the community of this state. It is long overdue.