

Ann Dodd-Collins
Portland
LD 2007

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

From: Ann Dodd-Collins, 120 Pleasant Ave #3, Portland ME 04103

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

It is time for the State to recognize the sovereignty of the Wabanaki Nations within its borders. It is a matter of fairness, equity, and justice.

Accepting the recommendations of the 2019 bipartisan Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement as laid out in LD 2007 would put the Wabanaki Nations on the same footing as the other 570 federally recognized tribes and allow them to take advantage of federal self-determination policies, programs and funding that elsewhere in Indian Country have led to the creation of thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in goods and services produced by Native businesses. Studies have shown that when tribes throughout the United State thrive, their neighbors thrive as well. It is time to remove the barriers that have prevented the Wabanaki Nations from realizing their full potential.

I strongly urge the Judiciary committee to vote unanimously OUGHT TO PASS on LD 2007.