

To: Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
From: Katherine Beach, 14 Drew Rd, South Portland, ME 04106
Re: Support for LD 2007, An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations

I am writing in support of LD 2007.

Testimony: I support LD 2007 because I support tribal sovereignty. Please do all you can to support LD 2007. The Wabanaki Tribes in Maine should have the same rights as the other 570 federally recognized tribes across the country. Because of the 1980 Settlement Act, when Congress passes federal legislation for tribes nationwide, the tribes of Maine must be explicitly written into the legislation, unlike the other Indigenous Nations in our country. This lack of inclusion means that Maine tribes cannot access federal funding for their own economic vitality and self-determination. Allowing access to federal beneficial laws will not only benefit Maine tribes, but also the non-native citizens of rural Maine. This legislation does not circumvent the 1980 Settlement Act. Rather, it changes a provision in the Settlement Act that would at least begin the process of placing the tribes in Maine on the same footing as the other 570 federally recognized tribes.

Please, support LD 2007 and help put the tribes of Maine and rural Maine people on a path to prosperity.
Thank you.

Katherine Beach
South Portland
LD 2007

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