

Tom Rumpf
Brunswick
LD 2007

Testimony in support of LD 2007, An Act to Advance Self-determination for
Wabanaki Nations

To: Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on
Judiciary From: (Tom Rumpf, 34 Belmont Street, Brunswick, ME 04011.

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary
Committee, my name is Tom Rumpf and I live in Brunswick. I am a forester and
community volunteer. I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

I appeal to your sense of fairness and the American value of self-determination. The
Indian Land Claims Settlement Act (MICSA) is over 40 years old, and it is time for
re-examination and amendment of that law. The crafters of MICSA intended it to be a
"living document," requiring periodic modifications to keep it relevant.

I urge you to give the Wabanaki Nations the same rights that over 570 other tribes
enjoy in the U.S., to access federal programs to improve their economic plight. As the
recent Harvard study demonstrated, by modernizing MICSA, the Wabanaki Nations
could become the economic engines of their regions, creating new opportunities for
jobs and income growth for themselves and rural Maine.

It's time to remove the barriers that have kept the Wabanaki, along with their
neighbors in rural Maine, from achieving the dramatic and sustained economic
growth achieved over the past 40 years by 570 federal tribes across Indian Country.
Please support LD 2007.

Thank You.

[Make your case for LD 2007 here. See above for tips on writing effective testimony.]

Closing:

[Thank the committee members and succinctly summarize your take-home message.]