

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

**From:** Nancy Kurtz, 4 Wren Drive, Topsham, 04086.

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

**I am a resident of Topsham Maine and submit this testimony in support of LD 2007.**

**Testimony:** LD 2007 offers the Legislature the opportunity to restore the Wabanaki Nations' historic rights to self-determination, a step that is long overdue and which will benefit both the Wabanaki Nations and the State of Maine.

Enacting LD 2007 is the fair and equitable step in addressing and correcting the many mistakes which have been made in the past by colonists and their governments who settled the lands now claimed by the United States, but which historically belonged to the Wabanaki Nation. It is time to establish a new relationship with the Wabanaki which reflects and respects the rights and interests of all people of Maine and which will allow the State of Maine and the Wabanaki Nations to work together to benefit all of us.

When the Wabanaki are able to take advantage of federal resources which they have been denied, both they and rural areas of Maine will benefit. This is a positive outcome for the entire state. It is time to move past the difficulties which led to the passage of MICSA, which was never intended to be the final word, and to resolve the longstanding issues it created. Let's move forward in a positive direction, allowing Wabanaki Nations and the State of Maine to work together with respect and good will to make Maine a better and more thriving place for us all.

I encourage the Committee to vote in favor of LD2007 and to support its passage by the Legislature to welcome in a new era where Wabanaki rights are restored and we in the State of Maine can all work with and learn from each other.

Nancy Kurtz