

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: Chris Cabot, 418 Walnut Hill Road, North Yarmouth, ME, 04097

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Chris Cabot, and I live in North Yarmouth. I have worked in Maine's conservation sector since 2006. I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

The Wabanaki have been protecting the environment and maintaining sustainable ecological practices for millennia, long before European settlement of Maine. They will continue to do so; it's their heritage and birthright as Wabanaki peoples.

More than 1,600 Mainers from all corners of the state testified in record numbers in favor of passing a tribal sovereignty bill based on consensus recommendations made by a legislative task force four years ago. Environmental organizations, social justice organizations, organized labor, and faith-based groups continue to voice strong support on behalf of tens of thousands of their members. Over 250 businesses and organizations have joined the Wabanaki Alliance Tribal Coalition — including the newly formed “Businesses for Wabanaki Sovereignty,” a forum for businesses around the state supporting the inherent sovereignty of the Wabanaki Nations.

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 vote to pass LD 2007.

Thank you,
Chris Cabot