

Tracey Allen
Scarborough
LD 2007

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

From: Tracey L Allen 113 Ash Swamp Rd, Scarborough, ME 04074

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

I am writing today to testify in support of LD 2007.

The Wabanaki peoples have lived in Maine for millions of years and have lived in harmony with the land, protecting the environment and maintaining sustainable ecological practices. Maine is now seeing the impacts of poor decisions made in the 1960's and 70's to allow clear cutting of large swaths of forests. These practices have severely effected the overall ecology of the landscape which will take hundreds if not thousands of years to recover. This destruction included the loss of cold water fisheries, timber potential and tourism. We need the help of the Wabanaki people to help these lands and waters heal. They have always done this and they will continue to do so; it's their heritage and birthright as Wabanaki peoples. The government of the State of Maine needs to listen to it's citizens and make the native tribes of this state partners, instead of treating them like enemies.

What the State of Maine has done to the Wabanaki since the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA), is in my opinion, totally racist. If any other group of people in this or another state had been treated in the same manner, that is what we'd be calling it. When 570 other tribes nationwide have had full access to federal policies of self-determination then that makes what Maine is doing even more egregious. I don't care what fear based excuses the State uses to deny these people their right to self determination, it's just wrong. This legislative body made that determination itself four years ago in 2020 but didn't have the moral fortitude to overcome the Governor's veto.

Tens of thousands of Mainers, hundreds of business and organizations have all agreed that it's time to replace MICSA. We need the new jobs and income that would produce. We need to lift the Wabanaki people, and especially their children, out of poverty. We need the protections that the Federal "Violence Against Women Act" provides. We need the tribes voices throughout our State boards. We need the protection of the environment and increase in tourism that clean land and waters generates. But most importantly, we need to do it because it is the right, ethical and moral thing to do, to correct an injustice that should never have been done in the first place!

I'd like to thank Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary for holding this hearing. I'm strongly in favor of the passage of this long overdue bill, LD 2007, An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations