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**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 Dianne K. Webb, of 31 E Oxford Street, Portland, Maine.

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Dianne Webb, and I live in Portland, Maine. I was born in Maine and have lived here most of my life. I am a visual artist, writer, and theatre director. I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

Like many Mainers, I am of mixed ethnicities. I have heritage from French and Scottish settlers and First Nations ancestry. Those of us who live in this beautiful state flourish on the lands of the Wabanaki. The displacement of the Indigenous People who first inhabited this state is a wrong waiting to be righted, and LD 2007 begins this remedy. You have the chance to heal some of the mistreatment and denigration of Indigenous Peoples by restoring self-determination to the Wabanaki Nations by voting for LD2 007.

LD 2007 is a bill asking us to restore to the original Peoples of this State the right to sovereignty and self-determination, a right held by all other Indigenous Peoples throughout the US. Maine is the only holdout, the only state still colonizing, still denying the rights of the First Nations, and still refusing to treat the People of the Wabanaki Nations with the respect and freedoms they deserve on the land that they have continuously inhabited. Bill LD 2007 restores fundamental rights to a sovereign people.

It is our duty and privilege to right some of the wrongs of our settler ancestors toward the Wabanaki Peoples. As a Mainer, I support this bill wholeheartedly.

I understand that the legislature has attempted to remedy this wrong in the past, only to be met with a veto from the governor's office. Today, I urge you to vote with enough support to overturn a potential Governor's veto. Let's move forward into a new era in Maine where all peoples are free and where we can live with the Wabanaki Peoples in the context of their self-determination. Sometimes, the right thing to do is obvious. Voting for LD 2007 is one of those times.

I thank Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and the members of the Judiciary Committee for reading my testimony. I appreciate your serious consideration.

Sincerely,  
dianne k. webb