

Jennifer Waterman
Yarmouth, Maine
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: Jennifer Waterman, Yarmouth, Maine

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary
Committee, my name is Jennifer Waterman and I live in Yarmouth. I am writing to
testify in support of LD 2007.

When we support the Wabanaki in thriving, we all thrive. 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. All our land acknowledgements
are empty without taking important steps to return Wabanaki Nations' rights to
self-determination.

Now more than ever, we need good land stewards. 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.

Thank you for unabashed support of LD2007. It's the important next right step.