

Libbet Cone  
Portland  
LD 2007

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

My name is Libbet Cone and I live in Portland. I am now a partially retired psychiatric social worker, and have had a private practice in Portland for 40+ years, I own a home built in 1826, and raised two sons all in Portland. I spend 6 or 7 weeks every summer camping at the Stephen Phillips Wilderness Preserve. I love Maine.

I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

First of all, Wabanaki tribes must have full access to all resources that allow them to develop and prosper as a nation and as a people. It is appalling how far behind Maine has been in supporting and promoting Wabanaki peoples recover from the painful history of trauma and repression. As a psychotherapist, I have seen so much damage that needs attention and support for healing to occur. Passage of this bill would help. I was present last fall at the legislative session which attempted to overturn the governor's veto of LD 2004. It was a painful moment and passage of this bill could restore my, and many others faith in our legislative bodies.

Secondly, Wabanaki peoples have been practicing and preserving ecological practices that we as settlers have mostly forgotten. In these days of recognizing the unsustainability of our practices, we would do well to let ourselves learn from the Wabanaki People. We all need all of us to be living well and thriving. As a long time hiker and camper, I am particularly attuned to nature and the wilderness areas in particular, and feel a gratitude and an urgency for preservation for our still remaining natural spaces and of our native peoples communities and ways of life. It seems fair if we are asking them to teach us their ways, that we would do well to make it possible for them to thrive in our ways with full access to economic resources and development.

Thank you for your time and attention, serving as you do for us all, and in particular for taking the time to read my testimony. It is time to join the ranks of those others in our nation who are recognizing the rights and the needs of our native peoples, and our responsibilities as those who have benefited from the systems we have developed to make room and share the fruits of all of the resources we have available in Maine.

Respectfully and Sincerely,  
Libbet Cone