

Kale Vonderau
Corinth
LD 2007

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

From: Kale Vonderau, 232 Exeter Rd, Corinth, 04427.

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

Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is
Kale Vonderau and I live in Corinth, Maine. I am writing to testify in support of LD
2007.

After taking some time to reflect on what the passing of the bill would mean to the
Wabanaki Nations, it is a no brainer to support the LD 2007 bill that ensures equity
and fairness, which is long overdue since the restrictions imposed by the 1980 Maine
Indian Claims Settlement Act. Since the MICSA was passed it has severely hindered
economic growth for the Wabanaki Nations and creates a barrier for the continuation
of maintaining sustainable environmental practices in their lands and the State of
Maine as a whole.

Passing LD 2007 would also bring in significant revenue to the state of Maine, as
stated in a Harvard Report, "self-government for the tribes would likely mean an
additional \$330 million a year in Maine's Gross Domestic Product, more than 2,700
jobs, and \$39 million a year in state and local tax revenue.' Meaning rural Maine and
Wabanaki Nations working together and creating an environment for all to thrive in.
Support not only provides autonomy of the Wabanaki Nations and upholds their
inherent rights as a sovereign nation to grow economically, additionally, it would
significantly lower the poverty rates that are severely impacting Wabanaki
communities and children, with a range from a low of 40% at the Passamaquoddy
Tribe at Motahkomikuk community to a high of 77% for the Mi'kmaq Nation in
Aroostook County. Think about these statistics not as numbers but as living, breathing
children and their families being affected, in comparison, Maine's childhood poverty
rate for the same period is 15%, a gross imbalance.

A heartfelt and sincere thank you to Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen and members of the
Judiciary Committee, for your time and care going into the deliberation of this bill.
Remember, supporting the children and families of the Wabanaki people, the
environment that makes Maine such a beautiful place to live, and upholding the rights
of the Wabanaki Nations is reason enough to pass the bill, but a drastic increase in
economic growth for the Wabanaki Nations means growth for the whole state of
Maine.

Respectfully,
Kale Vonderau