

Arlene Jurewicz-Leighton
Lincolntonville
LD 2007

Support for LD 2007, An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations
Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on
Judiciary:

I can not be present to give this testimony but I wish to include this letter of support
Over the course of a decade I have been a Wabanaki ally having joined them in in
their endeavors to reclaim the waters of the Penobscot River and to work to ban the
use of Wabanaki Nation mascots in Maine. Through Wabanaki Reach and other
resources I've learned about the Shirley and Phips Proclamation and the 'genocide for
land' our forefathers conducted. (A good resource to review
<https://www.bountyfilm.org/lesson-three/the-sixth-anglo-abenaki-war>)

In reviewing the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act and the Wabanaki Alliance web
page I learned:

“The settlement did not give land to the tribes; it simply provided a federally funded
mechanism for land restoration. Both the Passamaquoddy Tribe and Penobscot Nation
are eligible to purchase up to 150,000 acres — just 2.5% of the 12 million acres
unlawfully claimed by Maine — from willing landowners. The acreage would be put
into a trust held by the U.S. government for the benefit of the tribes. Tribal trust land
cannot be sold, condemned, taxed, or subject to state jurisdiction without federal
approval.

To this day, neither tribe has been able to purchase the full amount of land provided
for in the settlement. The tribes may only access the Land Acquisition Fund when
they are able to purchase land and only receive interest from the Settlement Fund.”

In the book section of about the future (“An Indigenous Peoples' History of the
United States” by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz) the author states: “How then can US
society come to terms with its past? How can it acknowledge responsibility? The late
Native historian Jack Forbes always stressed that while living persons are not
responsible for what their ancestors did, they are responsible for the society they live
in, which is a product of that past.” (Dunbar-Ortiz, 2014, p. 235)

Do the responsible thing and pass LD 2007.

Thank you,
Arlene Jurewicz-Leighton
560 Youngtown Rd
Lincolntonville, ME