

Kerry Read
South Paris
LD 2007

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Kerry Read. I am a resident of South Paris and am testifying in support of LD 2007.

I submit these remarks as a member of the First Universalist Church of Norway, which is a member of the Wabanaki Alliance Tribal Coalition. I am also one of the 500 members of the Maine UU State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN), which links Maine's 26 UU congregations in working for legislation that embodies our values. Unitarian Universalism affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person and promotes justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

I believe LD 2007 should become law because the 1980 settlement act, which it would amend, has put the Wabanaki tribes in a category separate from all other federally recognized tribes in the U.S. and has stifled the Tribes' rights and abilities to determine their own social and economic environments and priorities, causing cultural, personal and economic hardship.

Removing the obstacles put in place through MICSA, will help the Wabanaki Nations take advantage of federal policies, programs and funding that elsewhere in Indian Country led to the creation of thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in goods and services produced by Native businesses.

The Harvard report demonstrates clearly that Maine and its citizens will prosper as the tribes prosper. That can not happen while the State of Maine insists on standing in the way.

It is way past time to start repairing the harms of the past and work beside the Wabanaki Nations for the benefit of everyone in this state. I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 2007.

Thank you,
Kerry Read