

Tina Phillips
Brunswick
LD 2007

February 24, 2024

To: Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen, and members of the joint Standing Committee on judiciary

From: Tina L Phillips, 115 Storer Rd, Brunswick, 04011

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

Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Tina Phillips and I live in Brunswick. This is my written testimony in support of LD 2007.

The Wabanaki Nation tribes have been sustainably caring for the land that is the state of Maine centuries before settlers arrived declaring Maine their state. Despite this fact, the Wabanaki Nation has been denied the federal rights and authority that is given to most all other native tribes in the US.

It is time that the state of Maine respect their right to self determination by making positive changes to MICSA through LD 2007. The changes proposed through LD 2007 will result in improved access to federal funding and programs by the tribes, increased job opportunities for the communities in rural Maine and increased state and local tax revenue.

The Wabanaki Nation people have been working alongside the people of Maine to protect our beautiful state for centuries. Improving their chances for progress by passing LD 2007 improves the fate of all our communities.

I express my deepest gratitude to Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee for reviewing my testimony. I urge you to grant the Wabanaki Nation the same rights to self-determination enjoyed by all other first nation tribes. They have proven worthy of it.

Sincerely,

Tina L Phillips