

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

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

My name is Jessica Joyce, and I live in Freeport. I own a small business, Tidal Bay Consulting, where I work with stakeholders and communities throughout Maine and New England on fisheries policy, preservation of coastal access and working waterfront, and coastal resilience. I offer this testimony in support of LD 2007.

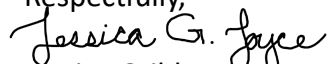
Much of my career across federal, state, and locally managed fisheries has been focused on supporting a just and equitable process for all stakeholders and rights holders as they engage in decision-making that affects their livelihoods and culture. Through this work and professional development, I have learned that the Wabanaki Nations do not have the same rights or authority to regulate fishing or access to marine resources as other tribal nations in the United States.

The Wabanaki peoples have been managing and conserving marine resources since time immemorial and deserve this authority on Tribal lands, as LD 2007 proposes, based on Consensus Statements 7-9 from the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act. Gaining authority over the resources and Tribal lands, and having the ability to make locally-informed decisions allows for economic growth opportunities, provides wild protein for sustenance, and allows important fishing culture to be passed to the next generation.

My business is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion, which includes recognizing where underrepresented and/or underserved populations could use a supporting voice. The MICSA presents numerous procedural justice concerns, and LD 2007 addresses these by providing the right to access the same self-determination policies and programs that the other 570 federal tribes have had access to for decades. Tidal Bay Consulting stands by the Wabanaki Nations and is a member of the Businesses for Wabanaki Sovereignty.

I'd like to thank the members of the Judiciary Committee for consideration of my testimony in support of LD 2007. This bill will restore justice and equity to the Wabanaki Tribal Nations, which will afford economic opportunities, further support their right to self-determination, and allow for fishing and hunting culture to be passed down to future generations.

Respectfully,


Jessica Gribbon Joyce
Tidal Bay Consulting
Freeport