

PATRICIA PHILLIPS

Eastport

LD 2007

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

From: Patricia Ann Phillips (Formerly Phillips-Doyle) 181 County Rd. Eastport, Maine 04631

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

Intro: Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Patricia Ann Phillips and I live in Eastport 2 miles from Sipayik. I am writing in support of LD 2007.

Testimony:

My first introduction to the Passamaquoddy was in 1958 when I summered near Motahkomikuk. Years later as a home health nurse I was able to meet and care for many Passamaquoddy Elders. In 2006 I married Chief/Sakom Rick Doyle and became intimately involved with the community. I am still involved. I volunteer for an organization that teaches the history of the Wabanaki in the land we now call Maine. I am a member of Cipelahq Ehpick the Sipayik women's drum group, drumming is healing. I often am asked to assist with end-of-life care as a drummer, leading prayer or presiding at funeral services. In this capacity I have seen too many people especially young people die. In 2002 my husband Chief/Sakom Rick Doyle stood before you and gave a historic speech to the Maine State Legislature. He stood with hope that he was standing at the beginning of an era of cooperation, trust, and partnership. He wanted to help his people protect their land, grow economically, protect their traditions and culture. He wanted his people to be better neighbors and partners. This man who fought for water rights and for tribal sovereignty, died too soon as do so many Wabanaki people.

22 years have passed since Chief/Sakom Doyle gave his speech to the legislature. Because of the Settlement Act, the Wabanaki tribes' health, educational and economic outcomes have lagged far behind those of other population groups in Maine and other tribes throughout the country. Today we can change the course of history.

Closing: Thank you, Sen Carney, Rep Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee. I ask you to support LD 2007 and advance the self-determination for Wabanaki Nations. It is right and just.