

Adrienne Horne
Appleton
LD 2007

Testimony in support of LD 2007, An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations

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

From: Adrienne Horne, 773 Union Road Appleton, ME 04862

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Adrienne Horne and I live in Appleton, Maine. I am a project manager who has grown up in Maine. I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

Growing up in Maine, I witnessed how strong our communities are. I appreciate to this day how I see people showing up for each other in times of need. I want to live in a state where our communities are treated fairly and given equitable access to resources needed to thrive. Currently, due to the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA), the Wabanaki Nations have been denied benefits granted to the other 570 federal tribes over the last 40 years. Until the Wabanaki Nations have equitable access to policies, programs, and funding, our communities in Maine will suffer. And this suffering will not be evenly distributed: Children are impacted the most harshly. U.S. Census data from 2019 shows that childhood poverty rates within Wabanaki communities were as high as 77%, compared to Maine's childhood poverty rate of 15% for the same time period. I want to live in a state where we do not fail 77% of a community's children. And this is not just the moral thing to do, it's also the economic thing to do. Harvard research has said that self-government for Wabanaki Nations could lead to a \$330 million a year increase for Maine's Gross Domestic Product in addition to 2,700 new jobs and \$39 million a year in state and local tax revenue. Wabanaki Tribes and Maine communities deserve to be treated fairly and provided with equitable opportunities to grow and prosper.

As a project manager, one of the key parts of my job is focusing on continuous improvement to ensure achievement of shared goals. The initial goal of the 1980 Settlement Act was to provide a federally funded mechanism for land restoration to Wabanaki Tribes. This act was called a "living document" to allow room to inspect and adapt based on initial outcomes. In the last 40 years, the primary outcome of MICSA has not been to restore land but rather to waste taxpayer dollars on litigation. Our goal should not be to create uncertainty and delay while wasting valuable resources. Our goal should be to do everything in our power to provide fair and equitable access to federal benefits, leverage all the tools available to end childhood poverty, and improve the livelihood of rural communities in ways that respect and protect these shared lands we call home.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope that you join me and thousands of other Mainers in supporting LD 2007 to advance the self-determination for Wabanaki Nations and improve the future of all Mainers.

Adrienne Horne