

Laurie Cartier  
Bangor  
LD 2007

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

From: Laurie Cartier, 979 Essex St, Lot 49, Bangor, ME 04401

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

Dear Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name  
is Laurie Cartier and I live in Bangor. I am here to testify in support of LD 2007.

I moved to Maine in 1984. At that time, I knew there were Native American tribes in  
the area and I “just assumed” that they had the same sovereign identities as the tribes  
in the other parts of the country. It never occurred to me until the commission’s  
results became public that our tribes were not given the same federal recognition.  
When I realized this, I was appalled. Each time there is a bill to grant the tribes their  
sovereignty, I just think, “of course it will happen this time.” And then it doesn’t!

I am now motivated, however belatedly, to give my testimony in favor of LD 2007, a  
bill to restore the inherent right of the Wabanaki Nations in Maine to self-govern  
within their respective territories in accordance with the same federal laws that  
generally govern tribal lands elsewhere in the United States. My feelings are very  
simple: It is simply the right thing to do! The Wabanaki people have waited long  
enough for the right to sovereignty. This is the perfect time for Maine to step up and  
make sure that they are given that right in 2024.

Thank you for listening and for making sure that LD 2007 becomes the law in Maine!