

Kate Manahan, LCSW

2-24-24

To Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing to testify in support of LD2007, An Act to Secure Self-Determination for Wabanaki Nations, legislation that recognizes and upholds the inherent sovereignty of the Wabanaki Nations in Maine.

The Wabanaki have a deep connection to the land and waterways of Maine, and their **commitment to environmental preservation** is rooted in their heritage and birthright. As Maine residents, we have a responsibility to honor and support the self-determination of the Wabanaki peoples in their efforts to protect their ancestral lands and resources.

I stand with thousands of Mainers who support the sovereignty of the Wabanaki Nations. It is time to make this change happen in Maine. Passing LD2007 is not only a matter of justice and respect for Indigenous rights; it is also **essential for the protection of Maine's natural resources** and the promotion of sustainable development practices. Upholding the sovereignty of the Wabanaki Nations will strengthen collaboration, foster mutual respect, and advance environmental stewardship efforts for the benefit of all Maine residents.

I urge you to support LD2007 and take decisive action to uphold the sovereignty of the Wabanaki Nations in Maine. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

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