

Amalia Siegel  
Rockland  
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: Amalia Siegel, 27 Gay St, Rockland, ME

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Amalia Siegel and I live in the homeland of the Penobscot Nation in what is now called Rockland. I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

LD 2007 is a very straightforward and reasonable ask: implement many of the 22 consensus recommendations reached by a bipartisan task force in 2020 tasked to review the effectiveness of the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act. This bill simply continues that work that was started by the task force. Notably, this bill does not even come close to compensating any of the tribes for the loss of land, loss of rights, forced assimilation, and ecological loss that the tribes have endured and continue to endure. It is a small but necessary step towards affirming the tribes' rights to self-govern as do all of the other 570 federally recognized tribes in the United States.

I'd like to thank the committee members for considering my testimony, and ask that you listen to the extremely clear call from the Wabanaki nations and hundreds of businesses and organizations that support this bill: to make long-overdue changes to the Maine Implementing Act that will allow tribes to take steps towards repairing the harms caused by centuries of colonial violence.