

David "Cletis" Boyer  
Belfast  
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: David "Cletis" Boyer, 3 Kerry Gardens, Belfast, Third Act Maine and Maine Climate Action Now

Intro: Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is David "Cletis" Boyer, and I am a retired teacher living in Belfast. I am also a current member of Third Act Maine and Maine Climate Action Now. I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

Testimony: As a social studies teacher, I learned of the scholarship on our nation as a settler society, and what that meant for our conquest and displacement of tribal nations. The organizations to which I belong begin all of our meetings with a "land recognition" that we are living on the unceded territory of the Wabanaki Nations, reaping benefits from their previous stewardship of the land. Third Act Maine and Maine Climate Action Now Coalition have both officially declared support for this legislation. We cannot undo the past, nor adequately provide reparations for that which has been lost or stolen due to policies of the past. But we can, within our current legislative structure, grant the Wabanaki Nations the degree of self-determination (sovereignty) as possessed by the other 570 federally recognized tribes. This will allow access to the economic supports afforded the other tribal nations, benefit the neighboring rural communities in Maine, and provide certitude to the Wabanaki of their standing as a sovereign entity.

Closing: The alterations to the Settlement Act that LD 2007 entails will bring fairness and equity to the Wabanaki Nations, freeing them from the restrictions of the 1980 legislation and placing them on a par with the other 570 federally recognized tribes in their rights to self-determination and full inclusion in federal programs. I thank the chairs and members of the Judiciary Committee for their consideration of this testimony,