

Carol Wishcamper
Freeport
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: Carol Wishcamper, 35 Little River Lane, Freeport, ME 04032, former Co-Chair, Maine Wabanaki Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Carol Wishcamper and I live in Freeport ME. I am the former Co-Chair of the Maine Wabanaki State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission, 2013-2015.

When we submitted our final report in June, 2015, our number one, absolute top priority recommendation was to "Respect tribal sovereignty and commit to resolve and uphold federal, state and tribal jurisdictions and protocols at both state and local levels."

I am disheartened that this many years later the issue of tribal sovereignty remains unresolved. I am heartened that each year more and more citizens in the state of Maine recognize the continuing harms to Wabanaki people by denying them the same rights as all the other federally recognized tribes.

Now is the time to right this wrong. All the arguments both for and against have been made over and over again. It is time to stop delaying what must inevitably happen and to take historic action. I appreciate your support of this legislation advancing and being approved this session.