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LD 2007

I am writing in support of LD #2007.

I became aware of the grave injustices our country perpetrated on Native Americans when I was a child of , perhaps, 10 years old. It broke my heart. With LD #2007, we, in Maine, finally have a hard earned opportunity to right some of the injustices that we, as a society, have wrought. I believe it is a moral imperative that we do so. We, immigrants, flooded this country and took whatever we wanted, disregarding the fact that this land was ALREADY OCCUPIED. Our disrespect has continued up to this time. The Land Settlement of 1980, while touted as a fair compensation, was not perfect. Some grave injustices were built into this document, intentionally or not. Passing LD #2007 will move towards righting some of these injustices that prevent the Wabanaki from receiving benefits that other tribes receive, that are their due. I want to see the Wabanaki shown respect for who they are. I want them to have the opportunity to thrive, as tribes in the rest of the country are doing. When the Wabanaki thrive, so will the rest of Maine. When Wabanaki values are incorporated into Maine values, we will all be the better for it.

Thank you.