

Corinne Sternlieb  
Houlton  
LD 2007

To the Judiciary Committee

Regarding LD 2007-An Act to Advance Self-Determination for Wabanaki Nations

Date: Feb.26,2024

From: Corinne Sternlieb, 179 B Rd., Houlton, ME 04730

Dear Committee Members:

I am so glad you are taking up the bill LD #2007. I think it is the right and fair thing to do for the Wabanaki Nations People of Maine, and the moral thing to do as Mainers. Were the tables reversed, we would want it done for us. Passage of this bill LD 2007 will enable the Wabanaki People to take good care of their current and future generations, increase their economic well-being, educate and employ their younger and adult generations, and it will demonstrate Maine's commitment to fair treatment and dignified inclusion in seeing to the full and fair inclusion of the freedom of their people and culture. We Mainers do not want to cause poverty, despair, and maltreatment of any group of people. We and Wabanaki People want and work for the same things for our families and for Maine: fairness and respect for the people, their families, work, cultural life and the beauty and health of our environment. We will be respecting our Wabanaki neighbors properly by removing the stumbling-blocks which have left them little but poverty, despair and hunger. These can only increase if not corrected with energy and good will. I want to note I will be proud, as a Mainer and human being, of passing LD 2007 because it will end a policy of our government --in our name!--which is harsh and unfair to Wabanaki people, and a holdover from other times and attitudes we do not hold. Thus, this bill's passage would not only help the Wabanaki People, it will also release Maine's citizens from continuing harmful, bad-spirited, un-Constitutional, and illegal practice that also, unnecessarily, causes our state tax money to be spent in bad faith on legal efforts to stall treating our neighbors as ourselves. So we will fix a serious problem for the Wabanaki People--our neighbors and equals--and a moral one for non-Wabanaki Mainers, by passing LD 2007. We will be equal partners. Our children will be justly proud of us.

Thank you very much for doing this very important work.

Sincerely yours,

Corinne Sternlieb

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