

Lorrayne Carroll
Portland
LD 2007

To the Judiciary Committee,

As a retired faculty member from USM, I write to support LD 2007, which seeks to remedy the historical injustices visited upon the Wabanaki peoples of Maine. My field is Early American Studies, and within that field I researched, published, and taught on Indigenous Studies in New England. My interview with Charles Shay, Penobscot Elder, recipient of the French Legion of Honor award for bravery on D-day, made clear to me and to the readers of the published transcription, that the State of Maine has an abysmal record of relations with the indigenous people of the region. In particular, the land "settlement" of the early 80's reinscribed the inequities of that record under the pretense of remediation. Without recognition of sovereignty/self-determination--a recognition accorded to all other federally-designated Indian peoples--Wabanaki Mainers lose an array of benefits that should by rights be theirs. Maine's unusual construction of State-Tribal relations leaves us an outlier and exacts from all Mainers a high price in material as well as moral costs. Please pass LD2007 to repair the historical as well as contemporary damage to Maine's Wabanaki people.