

Molly DellaRoman  
Brooklin  
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: (Molly DellaRoman, 853 Bay Rd, Brooklin, ME, 5 Star Nursery and Orchard, LCC.

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

My name is Molly DellaRoman and I live in Brooklin, ME. I am the co-owner of 5 Star Nursery and Orchard; a MOFGA certified organic heirloom apple orchard and native plant nursery. I am also the chair of Brooklin's Comprehensive Plan Committee, serve on Brooklin's Planning Board and am the founder and Chair of the Brooklin Food Corps. I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

I firmly stand with the Wabanaki people, over 100 bipartisan Maine legislators, hundreds of businesses and organizations and thousands of individuals that LD 2007 is about fairness and equity and that Tribal Sovereignty must be restored to the Wabanaki tribes of Maine. In this time of climate change crisis and severe loss of biodiversity, including sources of healthy food, we need everyone at the table and we need leaders that have been stewarding the land for millennia. The wild, beautiful and abundant sea landscapes of Maine are still in existence because of the Wabanaki. As someone that owns and farms land in Maine and also works with organizations that both protect and make future plans for our land, I recognize every day the importance of the relationship that the Wabanaki have forged with this land long before we ever came here. I, like many other farmers and folks that practice and teach others to harvest food and protect the land, find ways to raise up and support the voices of the Wabanaki. But for the last 40 years, the Wabanaki have had to grapple and suffer with severe poverty rates and severely stunted economic growth compared to the 570 other Federally recognized tribes that have benefitted from over 150 laws that Maine's tribes do not have access to. The people of Maine know first-hand that when the Wabanaki thrive, we all thrive. From economic growth to the enactment and enforcement of conservation and environmental quality controls, we need the Wabanaki to have access to all rightfully-owned tools and resources for them to be able to thrive first and foremost. It is well past time for this to happen in this State and is a great stain until we begin to right this grave injustice.

I wish to thank the committee members for your time and your utmost support of LD 2007 for all of Maine.

Molly DellaRoman