

Sam Brown
Steadfast Farm LLC
LD 2007

To: Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on
Judiciary

From: Sam Brown, Cambridge (443 Smart Road, Parkman 04443)

Re: Support for LD 2007, An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki
Nations

Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee, I am a resident
of Cambridge and am testifying in support of LD 2007.

I am a forester and a forest landowner in the towns of Parkman and Cambridge, and
have deep concerns about the future of our State's forest health. I support LD2007 in
part because I believe that Wabanaki voices need to be more fully heard in how we
manage or relate to the land that supports our existence here in Maine. While not
solving every problem between the State and the Wabanaki tribes, this legislation will
be a significant step forward in acknowledging that the 1980 settlement was a living
document which could and should be adapted as conditions change.

It is my belief that current economic pressures on corporations force us all to make
management decisions based on profits rather than science and experience. Wabanaki
people have lived here in great numbers for thousands of years without destroying the
relationships between themselves and the earth. It is my opinion that the Wabanaki
voice and experience need greater influence on how we all relate to the land that we
all love.

LD 2007, as I read it, will help bring those essential voices into our collective
decision making.

Thank you for all you do for the State.

Sam Brown 207-277-4221