

Mary Lou Michael
Yarmouth
LD 2007

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

From: Mary Lou Michael, 45 Salt Marsh Lane, Yarmouth ME 04096

Re: Support of LD2007, An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki
Nations.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony on the issue of Wabanaki sovereignty again this year, as I did one year ago. My understanding of the importance of sovereignty and my recognition of the benefits has grown over time. When 570 Tribes in the US are able to participate in federal benefit programs, it makes no sense to argue either for the sanctity of the 1980 legislation or for a piecemeal approach.

I strongly believe the adage "a rising tide lifts all boats." Fairness would be enough for me to support this legislation. Yet beyond fairness, a strong case has been made for the economic benefit to all Mainers through passage of LD2007.

As a grandmother of 3 teenage grandsons born and raised in Maine, I want to demonstrate what advocacy looks like. If they ask me "what did you do when you knew?" I will not only point to efforts in my own community to make indigenous history visible but also to take action that moves history in the right direction. Providing this testimony is an opportunity. Please listen to the voices who are clearly calling for passage. And please work to create a two-thirds majority to finally make LD2007 the law.