

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Suzanne Norman I am a resident of Oxford Maine and am testifying in support of LD 2007

I submit these remarks as a member of the Unitarian Universalist faith tradition, which affirms and promotes justice, equity and compassion in human relations, and the inherent worth and dignity of every person. I am also one of the 500 members of the Maine UU State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN), which links Maine's 26 UU congregations in working for legislation that embodies those values. MUUSAN is testifying separately as an organization in support of this bill.

I believe LD 2007 should become law because the 1980 settlement implementing act, which it would amend, has put the Wabanaki tribes in a category separate from all other federally recognized tribes in the U.S. and has stifled the Tribes' right to self-determination, causing both cultural and economic hardship.

It is my firm belief that the State of Maine should not have the right to dictate how tribal lands are used by the general public. With regard to fishing and hunting specifically, I also believe and support the tribes right to fully oversee the use of their lands.

For all these reasons, I believe the State of Maine has a moral imperative to help restore the Wabanaki peoples' sovereignty and right to self-determination and I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 2007.

Thank you.
Suzanne Norman