

Lisa Penalver  
PEAKS ISLAND  
LD 2007

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

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: Lisa Penalver, 14 Upper A Street, Peaks Island, Maine, 04108; New Brackett Church (Peaks island)

Intro:

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Lisa Penalver and I live on Peaks island (just off Portland Maine. I am a member of the New Brackett Church, where I learned about this issue. I am a medical illustrator, I garden on the island for a living, and I am a community activist. The issues of fairness and inclusivity are very important to me.

I have come to realize that the current societal unrest and division can be tied directly to economic disparities in our society. Nowhere more so than in the communities of indigenous Mainers I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

Testimony:

The passage of LD 2007 is important for Maine. The children in the indigenous communities suffer disproportionately. Easing the Settlement Act's restrictions will enable the Wabanaki Nations to take full advantage of federal self-determination policies that are very clearly benefiting 570 other tribes and nearby communities across the country.

It feels shameful to know that the State of Maine, unlike many other states, stands out as an oppressor of the our native Wabenaki people.

You have the power AND the support of many fair-minded Mainers across the state to make important changes by lifting the restrictions imposed by the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA).

Closing:

I thank you, the committee members, for your hard work in the Legislature, and for your attention and careful consideration to this important topic. Please vote to pass LD 2007. There is so much injustice in the world right now – you can play a role in restoring some balance and hope for the Wabenaki. (and for me).