

Elizabeth Hope  
Yarmouth  
LD 2007

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

My name is Elizabeth Hope and I live in Yarmouth. I am just your average Mainer and I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

I urge you to support LD 2007 because it rights a long standing injustice to the Indigenous peoples who have lived for tens of thousands of years in this place many of us call Maine. This is home to all of us, and we all do better when we all do better.

For most of my lifetime Maine has deprived some of its inhabitants their federal rights. We are the only state in our country not abiding by the federal laws created for Indian Country. When the Wabanaki Nations are deprived of their rights, we are all harmed. The lack of opportunities for Wabanakis' economic development, health care, housing, environmental protections and disaster responses do not happen in a vacuum. When our neighbors suffer, we all suffer. We are also all at risk for our rights to be infringed upon if some of us can have our rights denied. There is bipartisan support for this legislation because the current situation is so blatantly wrong and needs to be remedied.

I support LD2007 because I share Martin Luther King, Jr.'s belief that "justice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Restoring the sovereignty of the Wabanaki Nations is simply the right thing to do.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of the self-governance of the Wabanaki Nations.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Hope