

Carol Perkins
Norway
LD 2007

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

From: Carol Perkins, 15 Main Street, Apt 1, Norway, ME 04268

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

Intro: Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name
is Carol Perkins and I live in Norway. I am a member of the First Universalist Church
of Norway and I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

Testimony:

The Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act of 1980 has not worked. Its
time that legislators heeded the bipartisan recommendations of the Task Force on
Changes to the MICSIA, and vote ought to pass on LD 2007.

Fundamental aspects of the Settlement Act were pathways for the Passamaquoddy
Tribe and Penobscot Nation to each acquire up to 150,000 acres of trust land. That has
not happened for either tribe.

No land base guarantee has been made to the Houlton Band of Maliseets or Mi'kmaq
Nation.

The Settlement Act has also failed to bring legal certainty to tribal-state relations and
thus litigation over differing interpretations of the act have continued unabated since
its implementation.

Because of the State of Maine's paternalistic treatment of the tribes, they have denied
the Wabanaki access to 150 laws benefiting Indigenous citizens, and millions of
dollars in federal assistance - monies that would certainly benefit the communities
surrounding the Wabanaki nations as well.

It's time for change. Vote to support your Wabanaki constituents. Vote ought to pass
and allow justice to reach Maine's original inhabitants.

Thanks to the committee members for hearing this message about the importance that
we advance the most vulnerable among us, and protect our image as Mainers.