

Brenda Franey
South Portland
LD 2007

Testimony in support of LD 2007, in support of “An Act to Advance
Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations”

TO: Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Joint Standing
Committee on Judiciary.

FROM: Brenda Franey, 72 Simmons Rd, South Portland

I am a member of the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Portland. We are a faith tradition that affirms and promotes justice, truth, equity, compassion, and values the inherent worth of every person. As a member of my church's Wabanaki Ally Team, I am committed to supporting legislation that embodies these values.

It continually amazes me that Maine is the ONLY state in our nation that does not recognize the sovereignty of its federally recognized tribal nations. The result of this is that the Wabanaki tribal nations in Maine almost always lack access to federal policies, programs and funding that would, not only provide economic benefits to the Wabanaki, but also to the neighboring communities. This is the practical reason for supporting this legislation. But, there is also a philosophical and moral aspect to this – the Wabanaki nations of Maine have long deserved the right to self-determination and the right to exercise control over their own lands.

The Wabanaki have been stewards of this beautiful place we call Maine for thousands of years. In the name of justice, truth, equity and compassion; I urge the committee members to vote in favor of passing LD 2007.

Thank you for your time and service to Maine and listening to my perspective.

Brenda Franey
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