

Mary Miller
Oakfield
LD 2007

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

To: Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee
From: Mary Miller, 129 Spaulding Lake Road, Oakfield, Maine, 04763

My name is Mary Miller and I live in Oakfield. I am a retired United Methodist pastor and a retired teacher, and participate in many outdoor activities.

I strongly support passage of LD 2007, recognizing the Wabanaki Nations' inherent right to self-determination, as a matter of justice, opportunity and mutually beneficial cooperation between the Tribes and the citizens of Maine.

The Wabanaki people deserve to be recognized as sovereign nations, not treated as municipalities within the state; they deserve the same federal benefits, access to federal policies, programs and funding, and support for economic and judicial self-governance afforded 570 other Tribal Nations in the United States.

They also deserve the right to acquire trust lands and to participate in regulation of hunting, fishing, and maintenance of natural resources on land they have sustainably used and protected for thousands of years.

Full recognition of Wabanaki sovereignty will economically benefit both Native and non-Native people in Maine, will help care for Maine's lands and waters, and will increase cultural understanding, shared education, and cooperative work in our communities.

Thank you for your consideration of LD 2007, a bill of justice, equity and respect. I urge its passage.