

Jennifer Frick
Portland
LD 2007

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

FROM: Jennifer Frick 120 Pleasant Ave. #2 Portland, ME 04103

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

Dear Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Jennifer Frick and I live in Portland. I am writing to testify in support
of LD 2007.

I am a white female who for a period of time was a single mother and struggled to
make ends meet. My economic status did improve, and I am aware of all of the
opportunities that were available to me because of my "membership" in the
mainstream social/economic picture of this country.

So economic opportunity is something I am passionate about. As I've read about
MICSAs and followed the journey of the state-tribal relations, I remain baffled at the
Governor's and former governor's position around the implementation of the various
aspects of the 1980 law. Particularly, the belief seemingly that it was written in stone.
When I look at the Harvard study about how the Wabanaki tribes have been affected
by the restrictions in the law, I marvel at the resistance to making changes that would
improve the rights and the lives of the Tribes in Maine.

As well, there seems to me to be ample evidence that tribal sovereignty enables
tribes to more easily thrive (when you look at the experiences of all of the other
federally-recognized tribes outside of Maine.)

Opportunities that would help the Wabanaki tribes to thrive, and at the same time
to help the economy of those non-tribal citizens surrounding them seems worth taking
seriously.

Thank you for your in-depth consideration of the ripple-effect of offering
increased opportunity to the tribes of Maine in the form of self-determination and
access to federal laws passed to benefit the all federally-recognized tribes.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Frick