

Philip Cosman
Norway
LD 2007

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

From: Philip Cosman, 18 Pleasant Street, 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 Phil Cosman and I live in Norway, Maine. I am a member of the First Universalist
Church of Norway and

I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

Testimony:

Voting with the Act to Advance Self-Determination for Wabanaki Nations is inline
with the 22 bipartisan recommendations of the 2020 Task Force on Changes to the
Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act. It's time the Wabanaki received
justice in this matter.

I think about the Maine motto of Dirigo "I LEAD," well members of the committee,
when we exclude our original inhabitants from advancement that are seen in on
reservations and Indigenous communities around the United States - when the growth
of personal income of all Native people over the past 30 years is 60 percent (both
those communities with gaming and those without), but the Wabanaki are held to a
mere 9 percent (Mainers gained about 25 percent in that time frame), then it says we
are doing something wrong, and we obviously aren't leading anyone anywhere with
any positive direction.

I would like to thank the committee members for hearing my testimony, and
encourage you to LEAD us toward a better future for all Mainers.