

My name is Raina Overskride. I currently reside in Gray Maine and have been living in Maine for close to 14 years and I am writing this testimony in support of LD 2007.

For far too long the Wabanaki nations have been left behind and ignored when it comes to Sovereignty and Self Determination. For a nation like the so-called United States that beats its chest about human rights, fairness, equality and democracy, To me it seems like hypocrisy when Indigenous Nations like the Wabanaki nations are denied their rights as a nation time and time again.

So many politicians within the state of Maine claim to care about children's well being but how could any who oppose LD 2007 truly stand by that. At this very moment Wabanaki communities like the Passamaquoddy Nation in Motahkomikuk community around 40% all the way to staggering numbers as high as 77% for the Mi'kmaq Nation in Aroostook County. Meanwhile Maine's childhood poverty is as low as 15%. How is this fair? How is this respecting human rights? **How is this allowed?**

As a resident of Maine I have always admired the beauty within the state. The lush forests, beautiful rivers, clean water and the crisp air. But many forget why we have these things and why they are present today. **We have all of this because of Nations like the Wabanaki Nation.**

**Without the Wabanaki Nation** none of these things would be here in Maine today. By passing LD 2007 and giving back sovereignty and self determination to the Wabanaki Nation, this will benefit all of us in maintaining the beauty of the environment here in Maine.

While these are just a few points mentioned in support of LD 2007 they resonate most with me along with self determination and sovereignty. These lands sometimes called Turtle Rock Island, what you all call The United States have been illegally occupied since 1492. It is about damn time we not only start acknowledging and recognizing nations like the Wabanaki Nation but also start healing the damage caused by settler colonialism. While LD 2007 is not going to solve the larger systemic issues the Wabanaki Nation faces, it can be a start down a path towards healing.

Pass LD 2007

Land back and Decolonization by any means necessary.

-Raina Overskride