

LD 2007 Testimony

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Noonan, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Jean Adamson. I am a resident of Hampden and testifying in support of LD 2007. I am a member of the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN) which has testified separately in support of this bill.

The UU faith tradition affirms and promotes equity and compassion in human relations and a world community committed to peace and justice. Equity presumes fair treatment and opportunity for all citizens. Social justice signifies enjoyment of the same economic, political, and social rights regardless of race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status.

The Wabanaki tribes in Maine have been denied equitable treatment by the 1980 Settlement Implementing Act which confers upon them a more restrictive status than all other federally-recognized tribes in the United States. Maine tribes have not enjoyed the benefits from more than 150 laws passed since 1980 that other U.S. tribes have enjoyed. The Act has stifled the rights of Maine tribes to self-determination, causing them both great cultural and economic hardship.

LD 2007 can remedy a great injustice. The time has come to stand by our tribal neighbors by granting them full sovereignty! They are asking to be treated like all other federally-recognized tribes and nothing more. Shouldn't they have that right without the State of Maine obstructing them?

The outcry is growing! Support for LD 2007 comes from every Maine County, from members of all political parties, and from more than 100 faith-based racial and social justice organizations.

Justice/humanity demands that we remove barriers that create inequity. I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" for LD 2007.

Thank you.

Jean Adamson