

Matthew Stucke  
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Saco, ME 04072

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

I write to you today with a heart full of gratitude for the opportunity to advocate for indigenous sovereignty by supporting LD 2007. I was born and raised in Hawaii, but have been excited to be a Mainer, living in Saco, for the last two years. My partner's family has genealogical history in Maine for multiple generations. My mother, and our ancestors back to the Mayflower, all grew up in East Bridgewater Massachusetts, not far south from here.

I ask you to consider, how many treaties with native people have my ancestors broken? How many treaties have been broken by Americans with Wabanaki people? It is unethical for us, as Americans, to hold the Wabanaki people to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement in perpetuity. After generations of breaking treaties against the will of native people, it is time for Mainers to unequivocally support the dissolution of a treaty that harms native people. It is past time for Mainers to unequivocally support the sovereignty of the Wabanaki people.

The passage of LD 2004 last year was a clear acknowledgement that the government of Maine recognizes the issue at hand. While it is unfortunate that Governor Mills vetoed the act, ultimately this was the closest we have come as a State to recognizing Wabanaki sovereignty. I implore us all to continue that work and make Wabanaki sovereignty a reality. Thank you so much for your time and consideration and I look forward to working together to support the wellbeing of Wabanaki people.

With gratitude,

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