

Penelope Elwell  
Brunswick  
LD 2007

To Senator Carney, Representative Mooney, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Penelope Elwell and I live in Brunswick, Maine. I am providing written testimony in support of LD 2007.

In 2024 it is time, and is surely past time, to look at the authentic history of our Country and our State. We cannot change our past, but we can work together to facilitate a better future. The peoples of Maine deserve to live with fairness and equity, and with respect for each individual and each community- and this includes the members of Maine's four Wabanaki tribes, and the Nations in which they live. The passage of LD 2007 will provide these Nations self-governance, increasing opportunity for economic growth, a growth that will not only favorably impact the lives and health of its citizens, but also the lives and well-being of surrounding communities. We're talking about education, employment, poverty, health and environmental controls and care. And we are talking a belief in the inherent dignity of all peoples, and their right to self-govern- at this time, in this country. May the Wabanaki Nations be granted the right of sovereignty, as have all other tribal communities in the United States of America.

I thank you Senator Cooney, Representative Mooney, and the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary for your time and your consideration.