

Holli Cederholm
Swanville
LD 2007

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

From: Holli Cederholm, 1 Addys Way, Swanville, 04915

Re: Support for LD 2007, An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki
Nations

Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is
Holli Cederholm, and I live in Swanville. I am writing in support of LD 2007.

In the two decades I have lived in unceded Wabanaki territory, in what is now called
Maine, I have spent most of my time as an organic farmer, engaging with the land to
provide food for myself, my family, and my community. The land I have tended has
been stewarded by the Wabanaki for thousands of years, and their culture and
traditions are deeply linked to continued land stewardship. However, the inherent
right of the Wabanaki to self-govern within their respective territories — in
accordance with the same federal laws that govern tribal lands elsewhere in the
United States — is not currently upheld by Maine state law. This lack of
self-determination challenges the ability of the Wabanaki to continue their legacy of
ecological land stewardship, which is not only important for their cultural survival but
also has wide-reaching environmental benefits for all Maine residents, now and for
generations to come. Importantly, LD 2007 would expand opportunities to access
federal funding for environmental protections, including protecting drinking water,
within Wabanaki territories by easing the Settlement Act's restrictions.

In closing, I believe that support for self-determination of the Wabanaki Nations is
critical not only for the Wabanaki people, but also the environment and all residents
of Maine. I urge you to pass LD 2007, An Act to Advance Self-determination for
Wabanaki Nations.

Thank you for your consideration,
Holli Cederholm