

Janet Eastman
Limington
LD 2007

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

I live on the shores of the Little Ossipee and the Saco Rivers. When I walk the land which was a major gathering place for indigenous people, I see and feel the care and love given by the ancestors of this land I now call home. And I see the changes happening to our environment under the stewardship of modern society – a society that is less concerned about our natural resources than the Wabanaki People who have loved this land and honored and tended it for many, many years. I am grateful to them and know they have much to teach us.

I do not understand why we would not want to give Wabanaki citizens the opportunity to grow their economy. They are not a large corporation coming into the State with little care or concern about our environment. They would be mindful of our environment and communities because this is their home too. And they have been caring for it long before we arrived.

Let us do the right thing. Let us do what is fair and not be guided by unfounded fear.

I support LD 2007 as do the majority of Maine people. Let's move forward in a positive manner acknowledging our shared values with the Wabanaki. It is time to let them have access to the Federal programs available to 570 other tribes across the country.

Sincerely,
Janet Eastman