

Sara Trunzo  
Belfast  
LD 2007

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

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

[[SEP]]Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary  
Committee—

My name is Sara Trunzo. I live in Belfast on the Penobscot Bay, where people are  
lucky live in community with the lands and waters that have been stewarded by the  
Wabanaki Nations since time immemorial.

I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007, An Act to Advance Self-determination  
for Wabanaki Nations.

[[SEP]]While there are many reasons to support the passage of LD 2007, I would like to  
speak to 2 major ones that resonate with me as a voter and community member.

The first one is ethical and straightforward: Who is the government of Maine to  
withhold self-determination from sovereign nations? Without the passage of LD 2007,  
the Wabanaki Nations will continue to be kept from utilizing the opportunities  
available to the other 570 federal tribes who have full access to federal policies of  
self-determination. Where we, as a state, have an option to choose a more equitable  
and less oppressive path that it is essential to do so.

Additionally, I have spent much of my adult life either doing career work or volunteer  
organizing in food security, hunger relief, sustainable agriculture, and related realms  
that serve rural Mainers (Veggies For All, Waldo county Bounty, Volunteer Regional  
Food Pantry, Maine Farmland Trust, etc.). This field of work exists due to faults of  
our economy and political systems, leading to decreased quality of life for poor,  
working class, and middle class people. If we have opportunities to strengthen rural  
economies and reduce poverty by empowering a historically-excluded population—  
this would be a win-win. But you do not have to take my word for it. According to the  
2022 report “Economic and Social Impacts of Restrictions on the Applicability of  
Federal Indian Policies to the Wabanaki Nations in Maine” published by the Harvard  
Kennedy School and Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation,  
self-government for the tribes would likely mean an additional \$330 million a year in  
Maine’s Gross Domestic Product, more than 2,700 jobs, and \$39 million a year in  
state and local tax revenue.

Thank you, Committee Members, for your consideration of this matter that is so vital  
everyone who lives within and beyond Maine.

Sara Trunzo  
Belfast, ME