

Beth Clifford
Perry
LD 2007

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

From: Beth Clifford, 181 Leach Point Road, Perry, Maine 04667

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

Date: February 25, 2024

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

My name is Beth Clifford, and I live in Perry. I am submitting testimony in support of LD 2007. This legislation would make substantial changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act (also known as the Maine Implementing Act) to address problems with the law that prevent the Wabanaki Nations in Maine from exercising their inherent right to self-govern, as all other federally recognized tribes in the United States are able to do under Federal Indian Law.

The changes would bring the rights and authority of all four Wabanaki Nations (Passamaquoddy Tribe, Penobscot Nation, Mi'kmaq Nation, and Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians) in line with the other 570 federally recognized tribes in the United States. Passage of LD 2007 would significantly impact the Wabanaki Nations' opportunities for economic development, and when the Wabanaki thrive, rural Maine thrives.

Thank you, Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee, for your thoughtful consideration of this critically important legislation. Please vote for the passage of LD 2007. This law will finally acknowledge the Wabanaki Nations' right to self-determination, which they never ceded.

Sincerely,
Beth E. Clifford