



GREATER BANGOR AREA BRANCH NAACP

P. O. BOX 245 BANGOR, ME 04402

25 February 2024

Committee on Judiciary, Attn: Susan Pinette
c/o Legislative Information Office
State House, Room 438
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

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

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and other members of the Committee on Judiciary,

I am submitting this testimony as a representative of the Bangor Area Branch NAACP in support of LD 2007: An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations. The Greater Bangor Area Branch NAACP fully supports Wabanaki sovereignty, and we support this bill that makes needed changes to the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act.

Wabanaki Nations in Maine currently do not enjoy the same rights, powers, privileges, and immunities as other federally recognized tribes in the United States. This situation of injustice has resulted in decades of social and economic barriers for the Wabanaki people and surrounding communities. LD 2007 will rectify the law that blocks Wabanaki Nations from the right to self-governance. In effect, the bill is an expression of fairness and equity—values that are central to the mission of the NAACP.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote in favor of LD 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Alpert, President

Greater Bangor Area Branch NAACP