

Coren Wheeler
Pownal, Patagonia Freeport
LD 2007

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,
My name is Coren Wheeler, I live in Pownal, am an employee of Patagonia Freeport,
and I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 2007.

The Wabanaki Nation of people deserve the same rights as the other 570 federally recognized tribes in the United States. The Wabanaki people are good stewards of the land and waters of Maine, as their heritage and culture are entwined with their environment. The inherent value of this beautiful and great state of Maine resides in the pristine and abundant natural resources and the relationships we hold with our people and the environment. We, as citizens, and leaders in this Nation, shall recognize and grant our Wabanaki friends and neighbors their sovereignty so that they may receive the fairness and equity that allows them to access federal benefits resulting in opportunities for economic development, healthcare, housing, environmental protections and disaster response.

The Wabanaki Nation of people bring integrity, wisdom, culture and diversity to our State. We shall invest in their prosperity and enact legislation that allows them to self govern, heal from the imposed inequities, and thrive.

Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 2007.

Thank you.