

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

From: Robert R Fiske, 263 York Street, Portland, Maine 04102

Date: 2/25/2024

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

My Name is **Robert R Fiske**, and I live in **Portland, Maine**. I am writing to testify in **support of LD2007**.

I work at Laplante Electric in Scarborough as a Heat Pump and Solar Service Technician.

I believe it is well past the time to correct our relations as a State with the Indigenous peoples who have called this land home for Thousands of Years. Apart from just offering proper policies to abide with our neighbors and be their respectful friends, it is in ALL our best interests to push the conflicts and rancor behind us, to allow the Wabanaki communities a chance to grow and thrive better with the independence all people deserve, to bring Maine's relationship with the tribes up to the standards set by the rest of the Nation, with the long established Federal Recognition of these distinct Nations.

Not being in proper relationship with the Indigenous People who still live side by side with us today produces a terrible burden for their communities, and an ongoing Spiritual injury to ourselves. How can America be a moral leader in the world if we can't even get this right?

Thank You for your kind attention, and Please work to help mend these old injustices by supporting LD2007.