

Liz Eisele McLellan
Westbrook
LD 2007

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

From: Liz Eisele McLellan, Westbrook, ME

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

Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Liz Eisele McLellan and I live on the unceded lands of the Wabanaki
people, in what is now called Westbrook. I am writing to testify in support of LD
2007.

The more that I learn about how this country called America was born, the more that I
look around at the current systems, policies, and institutions that surround us. I can
see the stamp of our history embedded deep within—the pain, the trauma, and the
power. As we are faced with some of the greatest challenges of our lifetime, we are
also presented with powerful opportunities to repair and reconcile some of the harms
of the past. LD 2007 is one such opportunity.

The history of white settler colonialism on Turtle Island, and here in the Dawnland,
has been devastating to indigenous populations. That devastation has been continued
in many different ways over the centuries, all the way to the time where we find
ourselves now.

And I am curious to know, how will you act differently than those that came before
you? How will you divest yourselves of the harmful practices and policies that have
been commonplace in the effort to sustain white supremacy at all levels of our
government, including this one?

Governance is about how decisions are made and who makes the decisions. White
folks have been making the decisions for Maine tribes for too long. You have heard
their demands for sovereignty before. It is time to listen. LD 2007 is a bill that will
return sovereign rights to Maine's indigenous tribes that should never have been
stripped away by MICSA.

I hope you are able to see the value in passing a bill that delivers on humanity and
equity; that will allow the Wabanaki to partake in federal programs meant to benefit
U.S. tribal populations. Returning sovereignty to Maine's indigenous tribes is akin to
seeing them for who they are. Do not continue to relegate them to a place of
discrimination and "less than". It is time to acknowledge their right to
self-determination.

Thank you for your time and please vote to pass LD 2007. It is time.

Liz Eisele McLellan
Westbrook, ME