

Good Morning, Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Anghy Tehuitzil, a fellow at Maine Youth Power (MYP), an inclusive movement of young Mariners fighting for human dignity for all, working on multi-issues young people face, and standing for a better future for youth in rural and suburban Maine.

I am here today because MYP urges the need to pass LD 2007, an Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations. We believe that it's time for the Legislature to recognize the sovereignty of the Wabanaki, so they can restore the right to self-governance. Providing fairness and justice by giving them back rights to their land rights and the environment they have protected for years before European colonization. Hence, giving the Wabanaki nations the rights and responsibilities of regulating natural resources and land use within their territory.

MYP urges you to support Bill LD 2007, if the Legislature passes, it will finally give recognition of tribal sovereignty. The honest rights the Wabanaki Nations should have, and will be able to take back authority over how to handle issues on their lands.

Thank you for listening,
Anghy Tehuitzil