

Emily Weyrauch
Resource Generation - Maine Chapter
LD 2007

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

From: Resource Generation - Maine Chapter - mainechapter@resourcegeneration.org

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
Emily Weyrauch and I live in Buxton. I am testifying on behalf of Resource
Generation Maine in support of LD 2007.

Our group, the Maine chapter of Resource Generation, consists of young people with
wealth and/or class privilege who are committed to the equitable distribution of
wealth, land, and power.

An important part of Resource Generation Maine's shared values is a clear
understanding of our connections to land and wealth that was stolen, and working to
right those historical wrongs. We know that Wabanaki people were stewarding the
land and maintaining sustainable ecological practices for millennia, long before the
European seizure and settlement of what we now call "Maine"--and that justice looks
like the immediate step of restoring Wabanaki sovereignty, and a long road ahead of
repairing relationships and re-establishing access to culturally important land and
practices.

Wabanaki tribes have inherent sovereignty, but their current status outlined in the
Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act prevents them from taking full advantage of
federal self-determination policies—to which all 570 other federally recognized tribes
have access. This has hindered the economic well-being of Wabanaki people—an
insult to the intergenerational damage of land theft, systemic violence, and forced
family separation that mark a shameful stain on our state's history. And this has left
the Wabanaki tribes without the resources and access available to every other
federally recognized tribe in the US. We must act immediately to restore Wabanaki
inherent rights to self-determination.

As Resource Generation Maine, we are a group of people who believe that our
personal well-being is deeply tied to the well-being of all of those in our communities.
We know that when the Wabanaki thrive, we all thrive. Passing this bill will help the
Wabanaki tribes access federal opportunities to expand environmental protections,
increase access to health care, respond to natural disasters, foster job creation and
economic development, protect safe drinking water, and much more. When Wabanaki
communities experience prosperity and well-being, we all experience greater security
and well-being. Our communities will become stronger—and more climate resilient,
prosperous, and healthy. It's a future that we can feel hopeful about.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope you will take this opportunity to support
LD 2007 and support restoring Wabanaki tribes' inherent right to self-determination.