

Maddy Torraca Jones
Portland
LD 2007

Testimony in support of LD 2007, An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations

To: Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary From: Maddy Torraca Jones, 43 Macy Street, Portland Maine.

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Maddy Torraca Jones and I live in Portland. I am a farmer and work to increase food accessibility for kids in Maine. I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

As a farmer and land steward, protecting the long term health of the environment in Maine is extremely important and it is essential to center indigenous knowledge in this effort. The Wabanaki have been protecting the environment and maintaining sustainable ecological practices for millennia, long before European settlement of Maine. They will continue to do so; it's their heritage and birthright as Wabanaki peoples.

The inequities created by the settlement act endure, which not only threatens our environment, but also keep the Wabanaki, along with their neighbors in rural Maine, from achieving economic growth and at times stability. This puts many children at risk for food insecurity which can have so many harmful implications throughout their whole lives.

I urge you to pass LD 2007 in support of equality in Maine.

Thank you for your time,
Maddy Torraca Jones