

Kristen Pfeifle
Gray
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: Kristen Pfeifle, 310 W Gray Rd. Gray, ME 04039

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary
Committee, my name is Kristen Pfeifle and I live in Gray. I am an audiologist,
mother, and long time resident of Maine. I am writing to testify in support of LD
2007.

LD 2007 is about fairness and equity for the Wabanaki Nations. Due to restrictions
imposed by the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA), the Wabanaki
Nations have been kept from achieving the significant economic growth experienced
by the other 570 federal tribes over the past 40 years who've had full access to federal
policies of self-determination. Removing those obstacles would help the Wabanaki
Nations take advantage of federal self-determination policies, programs and funding
that elsewhere in Indian Country led to the creation of thousands of jobs and hundreds
of millions of dollars in goods and services produced by Native businesses

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. It's time to
remove the barriers that have kept the Wabanaki, along with their neighbors in rural
Maine, from achieving the dramatic and sustained economic growth achieved over the
past 40 years by 570 federal tribes across Indian Country.

The recommendations outlined in LD 2007 represent an important step toward
recognizing the rights to self-determination and sovereignty of the Wabanaki Tribes
in Maine, which I strongly support.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written support for this bill.

Sincerely,
Kristen Pfeifle