

Rev. Charles & Alison Stephens  
Blue Hill  
LD 2007

I submit these remarks as a minister of the Unitarian Universalist faith tradition, which affirms and promotes justice, equity, and compassion in human relations, and the inherent worth and dignity of every person. I am also one of the 500 members of the Maine UU State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN), which links Maine's 26 UU congregations in working for legislation that embodies those values. MUUSAN is testifying separately as an organization in support of this bill.

I personally believe LD 2007 needs to become law. The 1980 settlement has put Wabanaki tribes in a category totally separate from all other federally recognized tribes in the U.S. The State of Maine has a moral and economic imperative to help restore the Wabanaki peoples' sovereignty. It is long past time that Maine does this.