

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: Robin Hadlock Seeley, Leighton Pt Road, Pembroke, Maine

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Robin Hadlock Seeley and I live in Pembroke. I am a marine biologist who shares the Cobscook Bay and Passamaquoddy Bay region with my Passamaquoddy friends and neighbors, and I am an 8th generation Mainer. I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

The most compelling reason to support LD 2007 to me is the fairness argument. I cannot improve on the statement provided by the Wabanaki alliance:

“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.”

<https://www.wabanakialliance.com/ld-2007-talkingpoints/?emci=b803a862-65d2-ee11-85f9-002248223794&emdi=a4909291-9ed4-ee11-85f9-002248223794&ceid=920313>

Maine people are fundamentally fair. Why would we prevent the people of the Wabanaki nations from full access to federal policies of self-determination, programs and funding? Why would we not help a nation in our midst achieve fully if we had the chance?

We do have the chance and I urge you to vote “ought to pass” on LD 2007. Thank you for your time and attention on this most important bill, and for reading my testimony.

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