

Lucy Birkett
Freeport
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: Lucy Birkett, Freeport ME

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary
Committee, my name is Lucy Birkett and I live in Freeport. I work in the field of
ecological land care and restorative horticulture. I am writing to testify in support of
LD 2007.

By modernizing MICSA, the Wabanaki Nations would become economic engines in
their regions, creating new opportunities for jobs and income growth for themselves
and rural Maine. Based on the experience of other tribes, better than half the new jobs
created are likely to be filled by neighbors of Wabanaki tribes in rural Maine.

The Wabanaki people 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.

Here is an opportunity for the State of Maine to sincerely and honorably take a
measurable step in repairing relations with the Wabanaki Tribes, which benefits us
all. Thank you for supporting LD 2007, An Act to Advance Self-determination for
Wabanaki Nations. Sincerely, Lucy Birkett