

Molly Spadone
Arundle
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: Molly Spadone, 15 Spruce Fields Lane Arundel, ME 04046

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Molly Spadone and I live in Arundel. I am a psychotherapist and a lifelong resident of Maine. I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

As a non-indigenous person who has grown up in Maine, I have always been aware of the presence and contributions of the Wabanaki Nations to our state's history and culture. However, I have also witnessed the challenges and injustices faced by indigenous communities, including the erosion of tribal sovereignty and self-determination.

LD 2007 presents an opportunity to address these historical injustices and promote a more equitable relationship between the state of Maine and the Wabanaki Nations. By restoring tribal self-governance, LD 2007 will empower Wabanaki Nations to make decisions that are in the best interest of their communities, land, and future generations.

The bill includes important provisions that will enable Wabanaki Nations to protect their natural resources, strengthen their tribal sovereignty, and promote economic development. For example, LD 2007 establishes a Tribal Self-Governance Fund, which will provide financial support for tribal governments to exercise their self-governing powers.

Additionally, LD 2007 recognizes the inherent authority of Wabanaki Nations to regulate and manage their own fisheries and wildlife resources, allowing them to protect and preserve their traditional ways of life.

By passing LD 2007, the state of Maine will demonstrate its commitment to honoring the sovereignty of Wabanaki Nations and fostering a more equitable and just relationship between the state government and indigenous communities.

I urge you to support LD 2007 and help us restore tribal self-governance for the benefit of all Mainers. Thank you for considering my testimony.