

Lillian Harris
Falmouth, ME
LD 2007

Dear Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Lillian Harris and I live in Falmouth, ME.

I am writing to express my strong support for the passage of LD2007. There are many reasons why passing this bill is a good idea. I'd like to focus on one of Governor Mills' primary agendas: confronting climate change. I commend the governor for her strong commitment to this issue, and in particular for the creation of the Maine Climate Council that brings together diverse stakeholders to find actionable solutions to this shared crisis.

I argue that Maine's single greatest partner in creating a sustainable, science-driven, resilient, and innovative future, is the Native people who lived in healthy balance with the land, plants and animals of this state for thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans, and who continue to care for the precious natural environment we share.

The Settlement Acts (MICSA, MIA) are suppressing the enormous potential of the Wabanaki to guide us in restoring right relations with the land, waters and creatures of this place we all love. This bill is an opportunity to allow for the same economic, political, spiritual, and cultural revitalization other tribes in the United States have experienced over the past 30 years.

I do not see a path forward, into a world with stable climate, healthy biodiversity, and vital communities, without tribal sovereignty for the Wabanaki. This is what they are asking for, and what they deserve. It is also what is best for Maine. I strongly encourage the passage of LD2007.