

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: Abigail Johnston, 477 Saco Street, Westbrook, ME 04092

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Abigail Johnston and I reside in Westbrook. I have the privilege of working as a wellness coach with an emphasis on food and plant medicine. I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

Maine needs to catch up and deliver on its state credo, "I Lead." With this Tribal sovereignty bill, 2007, Maine can do just that. When we talk about what a healthy community looks and feels like, it is one that has self determination, one that is recognized as such; one that has access to the policies and protections of federal acknowledgement. The tribal communities must be included in this right of self-determination if Maine endeavors to be a healthy community for all its citizens.

In addition to being seen and heard, a healthy community thrives on clean water, clean soil, access to education, healthcare and meaningful employment. When considered through this basic framework of equity and humanity. LD 2007 can and should be an easy decision to allow the Wabanki equal share of these basic human rights.

Thank you for your kind attention and I know Maine will continue to lead with integrity,

Abigail Johnston