



Maine Coast Heritage Trust

A Statewide Land Conservation Organization

Testimony in Support of LD 2007

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Jeff Romano. I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) in support of LD 2007.

MCHT conserves and stewards Maine's coastal lands and islands for their renowned scenic beauty, ecological value, outdoor recreational opportunities, and contribution to community well-being. We provide statewide conservation leadership through our work with land trusts, coastal communities, and other partners. Over the past five decades, we have conserved more than 185,000 acres in Maine.

MCHT supports the principle of Wabanaki sovereignty embodied in LD 2007. Our position is grounded in more than 20 years of work with the Wabanaki people on the conservation of the lands essential to the ecological health of Maine Coast along with the cultural traditions and a way of life that has sustained the Wabanaki for centuries.

We encourage the Committee to seek an outcome for Maine's federally recognized Tribes based on mutual respect and fairness.