

Lucas StClair
Falouth
LD 2007

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: (Lucas StClair, 6 Whitney Farm Way Falmouth, ME,

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Lucas StCLair and I live in Falmouth. I am the President of Elliotsville Foundation who's mission is to work at the intersection of land conservation, environmental justice and rural economic development. I am a life long Mainer, hunter, angler, and outdoor enthusiast. I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

For the last several years I have worked with Wabanaki Community members and have learned so much from this work. I have also worked across the country in Indian Country to help tribes regain the access and ownership of lands that were stolen from them, including here in Maine.

I have learned that here in Maine, the Wabanaki nations have a disadvantage due to aspects of the MISCAs. It keeps their communities and their nations as a whole from gaining the advantages that every other tribal nation across our country has. This bill is about fairness.

This bill is also about strengthen rural Maine communities. When all of Maines communities are given the opportunity to thrive, all of Maine does better. This is not a zero-sum game.

Not only is MISCAs keeping Wabanaki nations from capitalizing on the 30 year economic boom, that has happened all across Indian Country, it has also hit children the hardest. I know first-hand what it is like to grow up in poverty in rural Maine and I've had the privilege to move out of poverty because my family is white and we don't have unfair restrictions against us. The restrictions against the Wabanaki community is not just holding them behind but holding all of rural Maine behind.

Please support LD 2007 and allow, MISCAs, to be reworked, as it was always intended. This is what Maine needs to help us grow into a more modern, inclusive, and fair society.

Thank you very much,
Lucas St. Clair