

Molly Schen
South Portland
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 Schen, 55 Romano Road, South Portland—a member of First Parish in Portland and of Third Act Maine

Intro:

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Molly Schen and I live in South Portland. I am a member of First Parish in Portland that faces its history—including that its first minister funded a scalping party—and works hard to repair relations through its work with the Wabanaki Ally Team. I am also a member of Third Act Maine, an organization of elders fighting climate change that is deeply cognizant of how we need to take lessons from Indigenous people about living in harmony with our non-human kin. I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

Testimony:

I believe the Maine State Legislature already knows and recognizes the importance of self-determination for the Wabanaki, a status already achieved in other states. We just need to convince a few more legislators of this important status so it can override a governor's veto. (Why Gov. Mills is opposed to such a basic right of people who lived here for thousands of years before non-Indigenous people came to Maine is a mystery to me and to my neighbors.)

This legislation would give Wabanaki peoples access to federal funds and programs that will add to their well-being and to the general well-being of Maine.

Closing:

There is so much more we should do to repair relations with the Wabanaki. This legislation is a significant step in the right direction. I urge you to support LD 2007.