

Katrina Wynn  
Old Town  
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: Katrina Wynn, 1317 Bennoch Road, Old Town, ME 04468

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Katrina Wynn and I live in Old Town. I am a desk clerk at the Orono Public Library, a Meals on Wheels volunteer, Election Warden Clerk for Old Town, and a mother. I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

My job, volunteering, and civic work are all motivated by my desire to connect with and contribute to my community for myself and also for my son. Every time I visit the Old Town Public Library I drive by Indian Island I am reminded that my local community is a beautiful mix of Wabanaki, settler, and New Mainers. I am also reminded that my Wabanaki neighbors are being deprived of their tribal self-governance. The history of the United States' relations with the Native peoples is rife with pain, racism, and not honorable. The Settlement Act has always struck me as unfair and it needs to be changed with the times as it was originally intended. In addition to simply being the right thing to do, the Harvard study has shown that with self-government for the tribes would be good for the State of Maine with a likely additional \$330 million a year in Maine's Gross Domestic Product, more than 2,700 jobs, and \$39 million a year in state and local tax revenue.

Thanks to the committee members for considering my testimony. As I teach my child about what it means to be a good person, I hope I will be able to tell him that Maine chose to help mitigate some of the past harm we have done to our Wabanaki neighbors by voting for LD 2007 and restoring tribal self-governance.

Sincerely,  
Katrina Wynn