

**To:** Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary  
**From:** ELIZA GUION, LEWISTON, ME - elizag15@gmail.com  
**Re:** Support for LD 2007, An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations

Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Eliza Guion and I live in Lewiston, Maine. I offer this testimony in support of LD 2007.

For the past several years, I have worked in food access and education in Central Maine. We can all agree that no person in Maine should lack adequate food, and yet, so many in our communities do. We also know that the root causes of food insecurity are economic and racial disparities. The effect of the 1980 Maine Indian Settlement Claims Act (MISCA) has been to exacerbate both of these disparities in Maine.

MISCA has effectively restricted the Wabanaki Nations from experiencing economic growth and prosperity. In other states, where federally recognized tribes are accorded their full rights, we have seen significant economic growth occur in the past several decades. Not only are the Wabanaki Nations missing out on this growth, but all of Maine is missing out on this growth. A Harvard [study](#) recently stated that passing LD 2007 could result in an additional \$330 million a year in Maine's GDP! It is unconscionable to continue to restrict the Wabanaki Nations and thus prevent the economic prospering of the tribes and of all Mainers. Let us take full advantage of federal programs that are already in place to support federal tribes. Right now, our government is leaving money on the table and refusing to course-correct, to the benefit of none.

I believe we as Mainers can prosper together. We can create a society where people from all walks of life experience the opportunity to thrive. Passing LD 2007 would help right the historic and present-day harm that MISCA inflicts upon the Wabanaki Nations.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. I hope you will take this opportunity to support LD 2007 and support economic opportunities for all.