

Michelle Henkin
New Harbor
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: Michelle Henkin, 15 Pipers Way, New Harbor, Maine 04554

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary
Committee,

My name is Michelle Henkin and I live in New Harbor on the Pemaquid Peninsula,
where I am restoring native plant habitat to the land I have the honor of stewarding. I
am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

As a resident of the State of Maine, I am deeply troubled and disturbed that the State
of Maine continues to deny the four Wabanaki Nations the right to self-governance
and the ability to access the full benefits of their sovereign status. There are 574
Tribal entities recognized and eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of
Indian Affairs by virtue of their status as Indian Tribes. The four Wabanaki Nations
are on the Bureau of Indian Affairs list of federally recognized tribes and the State of
Maine has the same moral obligation to act responsibly toward the tribes as the
federal government does. It is shameful to continue to deny the Wabanaki Nations the
rights all other federally recognized tribes enjoy. I am so grateful to be living in
Maine, and I am ashamed at the treatment those that have called Maine their home for
centuries are enduring.

My work is to restore native plants to the landscape and to remove the invasive plants
that are choking out the survival of these plants that grew here once, before the land
was disturbed. The legislature has the opportunity to redress the wrongs inflicted on
the Wabanaki when their sovereignty was denied in return for funds to buy back a
mere 2.5% of the 12 million acres unlawfully claimed by Maine.

I call upon you to put the State of Maine in right relationship with the four Wabanaki
Nations and pass LD 2007.

Thank you for reading my testimony,

Sincerely,

Michelle Henkin