

Helena Tatgenhorst
Portland
LD 2007

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

My name is Helena Tatgenhorst and I live in Portland. I grew up in Winterport, ME and now work in coastal conservation. I am writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

The Wabanaki have been stewards of this land for thousands of years and have been protecting the environment and maintaining sustainable ecological practices for millennia. They will continue to do so, as it is the foundation of their people. Passing LD 2007 will allow the Wabanaki Nations to have full access to federal policies and be recognized by the state as the sovereign nations that they are. Not being recognized as sovereign has led to economic restrictions for the Wabanaki and much lower health, educational, and economic outcomes than other population groups in Maine, as reported in the 2022 Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development. It is time to remove these barriers and allow the Wabanaki to thrive.

Thank you for considering my comments, and I urge you to vote YES on LD 2007 to support the people who have stewarded this land long before it was called Maine.

Thank you,
Helena Tatgenhorst