



Frenchman Bay  
Conservancy

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To: Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary  
From: Aaron Dority, Executive Director, Frenchman Bay Conservancy, PO Box 150, 72 Tidal Falls Road,  
Hancock, ME 04640-0150  
Date: February 26, 2024  
Re: Support for LD 2007, An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations

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

My name is Aaron Dority and I live in Blue Hill, Maine. I am testifying on behalf of Frenchman Bay Conservancy, a land trust in Downeast Maine that serves 12 towns and townships across eastern Hancock County and currently has over 1,000 active members. **I am writing to express our strong support for LD 2007.**

The Wabanaki Nations have called these lands home for millennia, preserving rich cultural traditions, languages, and ways of life deserving of respect and protection. Upholding their right to self-determination is not only a moral obligation but also a recognition of Indigenous communities' inherent rights to self-governance, land stewardship, and cultural preservation. At Frenchman Bay Conservancy, we deeply value Indigenous sovereignty and recognize the invaluable contributions of the Wabanaki Nations to our region's cultural heritage and environmental stewardship. It is imperative that we honor the Wabanaki people's right to make decisions regarding their lands, resources, and futures.

Your support for LD 2007 will enable the Wabanaki Nations to benefit from self-determination policies accessible to the other 570 federally recognized tribes, which have demonstrated improvements in health, education, and economic outcomes. By modernizing the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act, you will remove the barriers that have prevented the Wabanaki people from experiencing the economic growth achieved by other tribes for the past 40 years. At Frenchman Bay Conservancy, we believe that when the Wabanaki people are allowed to flourish, it will have a ripple effect of positive benefits through our service region of Downeast Maine as we foster a more just and equitable society.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge you to join me in endorsing LD 2007, marking a new era of partnership with the Wabanaki Nations for the betterment of all in Maine.

Sincerely,

Aaron Dority  
Executive Director