

February 26, 2024

Senator Anne Carney, Chair Representative Matthew Moonen, Chair Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary 100 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: Testimony on LD 2007, "An Act to Advance Self-Determination for Wabanaki Nations"

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the joint standing committee on Judiciary:

Founded right here in Maine twenty years ago, ReVision Energy is a local, employee owned, certified B Corporation clean energy construction company with over 480 employees across our five branches in New England, with 265 co-owners in Maine at our Montville and South Portland locations. Our mission is to make life better by building our just and equitable electric future. We carry out this work by installing tens of thousands of kilowatts of residential solar each year, in addition to constructing small scale commercial and community solar, as well as installing whole home electrification products including batteries, heat pumps, and EV chargers. We believe that we cannot achieve the just and equitable future in our mission statement without Wabanaki tribal sovereignty.

ReVision Energy inherently recognizes the relationship between environmentalism and social justice, as our mission is to truly build a better future by alleviating environmental and social injustices. Addressing both is vital for creating a more equitable and sustainable future for all. For that reason, we urge you to support and advance LD 2007, An Act to Advance Self-Determination for Wabanaki Nations.

As a Maine-based company, we are aware that the place with live and work is indigenous unceded land taken from the Wabanaki and Abenaki people. We also know that Maine is the only state in the country that does not recognize tribal sovereignty for its indigenous people, meaning they cannot access the benefits rightly provided by federal laws that support Tribal Nations and communities. As you know, since 1980, there have been over 150 federal laws passed that have not applied to the Wabanaki because of this, covering everything from environmental protection to health care to disaster response.

In 2022, we became one of the first businesses to join Businesses for Wabanaki Sovereignty (part of the Wabanaki Alliance) which is a coalition of businesses around the state dedicated to supporting and advocating for tribal sovereignty. We have activated in this regard and work to recruit additional businesses and members of the Alliance not only as it is mission critical for our work, but also because we believe it is crucial, as a business, to listen to our employee's voices and perspectives, proving that business really can be a force for positive social change. Our co-owners' advocacy only solidified our desire to speak out. Today, we are proud to be part of this coalition—now, more than 60 businesses strong.

We respectfully ask you to pass LD 2007. Thank you for your consideration of our perspective. We welcome further discussion, and we are available to address any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Bourgoine Director, Policy & Government Affairs <u>ReVision Energy</u>