



*Researching & reckoning
with New England's active role
in colonization & slavery*

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: Meadow Dibble, Executive Director, Atlantic Black Box, Portland, ME

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

My name is Meadow Dibble and I live in Portland. I am writing to testify in emphatic support of LD 2007 on behalf of Atlantic Black Box, a Portland-based nonprofit devoted to historical recovery.

In a literal sense, historical recovery involves working to uncover the long-suppressed truth about colonization and slavery as they played out in New England across more than two centuries. In a figurative sense, historical recovery is about seeking to reckon with these past abuses and to enact repair today, in a context fundamentally shaped by their harmful legacies.

Slavery in the place now known as New England began with the enslavement of Indigenous people. Genocide and land dispossession are among the other heinous crimes against humanity that were committed right here, stripping Native populations of virtually everything but their spirit of creative resilience in the face of unending oppression.

Placing the tribes in Maine on equal footing with the 570 other federally-recognized tribes across the country is one necessary act of repair. Passing LD 2007 is a moral imperative.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Meadow Dibble
Executive Director, Atlantic Black Box