

To: Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

From: Carol M. Larson, 23 Laurel Pines Dr. Gorham, ME 04038

Re: Support for LD 2007, An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations

Intro: Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Carol Larson) and I live in Gorham I am here to testify in support of LD 2007.

I am writing this morning to again urge your support for LD2007. As a lifelong person of faith and a member of MUUSAN, the Maine UU State Advocacy Network, I consider this first and foremost a matter of moral justice. The history of the state of Maine in relationship to the tribes is one of genocide, discrimination, and victimization. As long as, our neighbors are deprived of the rights and benefits of the more than 500 other tribes across the country, our state is perpetuating this wrong.

The benefits to correcting this injustice are substantial for our neighbors. They are currently shut out of the economic progress enjoyed by other tribes and their children are suffering extreme poverty as a result. Denying them a chance to thrive and to add their contributions to the communities around them is economically unfair and regressive.

People across the state have spoken before and are speaking again. I have no doubt we will continue this fight until this wrong is rectified. Please make this the year we get this done.

Thank you.