

**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: Marguerite V Williams, 7 Bridges Point Rd, Penobscot Maine

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

My name is Marguerite Williams, I am 75 years old, and I live in Penobscot , Hancock County. I am writing to you today to express my strong support for LD 2007 which will help restore the inherent rights of the Wabanaki Nations to self-determination and dignity. I was fortunate enough to be there in the Chamber last year when all the leaders of our Maine tribes spoke to the Legislators about their pride in their accomplishments and their collective need to be treated as all other tribes in the US.

AS a citizen of Maine and the United States, I have long felt guilt and shame about how the Native peoples in our country were treated by our government. History tells the story of how we systematically destroyed the Native peoples' way of life, their culture, stole and polluted their land, killed off most of them, and placed them in reservations dependent on federal and state governments to feed and sustain them while limiting their freedom to act autonomously. We have all seen the impacts of our treatment: poverty, poor health, social and mental stress, lack of economic opportunity.

This bill, LD 2007, takes many of the consensus recommendations of the 2020 Legislative TASK FORCE and will give our Maine Tribal Nation judicial autonomy – the ability to deal with crime and justice in their own community. It will provide the opportunity for economic development that many other tribes have benefitted from and put money into healthcare, education, social needs. This bill will support the oversight and conservation of land and waters used traditionally for food and sustenance.

Please pass this bill and finally give our Maine tribes the autonomy and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Marguerite V Williams

Marguerite Williams  
Penobscot  
LD 2007

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: Marguerite V Williams, 7 Bridges Point Rd, Penobscot Maine

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

My name is Marguerite Williams, I am 75 years old, and I live in Penobscot ,  
Hancock County. I am writing to you today to express my strong support for LD 2007  
which will help restore the inherent rights of the Wabanaki Nations to  
self-determination and dignity. I was fortunate enough to be there in the Chamber last  
year when all the leaders of our Maine tribes spoke to the Legislators about their pride  
in their accomplishments and their collective need to be treated as all other tribes in  
the US.

AS a citizen of Maine and the United States, I have long felt guilt and shame about  
how the Native peoples in our country were treated by our government. History tells  
the story of how we systematically destroyed the Native peoples' way of life, their  
culture, stole and polluted their land, killed off most of them, and placed them in  
reservations dependent on federal and state governments to feed and sustain them  
while limiting their freedom to act autonomously. We have all seen the impacts of  
our treatment: poverty, poor health, social and mental stress, lack of economic  
opportunity.

This bill, LD 2007, takes many of the consensus recommendations of the 2020  
Legislative TASK FORCE and will give our Maine Tribal Nation judicial autonomy –  
the ability to deal with crime and justice in their own community. It will provide the  
opportunity for economic development that many other tribes have benefitted from  
and put money into healthcare, education, social needs. This bill will support the  
oversight and conservation of land and waters used traditionally for food and  
sustenance.

Please pass this bill and finally give our Maine tribes the autonomy and dignity they  
deserve.

Thank you,

Marguerite V Williams