

Becca Hoskins
Bethel
LD 2007

Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Becca Hoskins and I live in Bethel, Maine. I am testifying in support of LD 2007. Maine is ahead of other states in a variety of exciting ways such as having ranked-choice voting and strict mining regulations. But Maine is woefully behind the times when it comes to its treatment of the Wabanaki tribes. I have friends in the Penobscot tribe, and I work in conservation. It has never in our shared history been more apparent that sovereignty for native people benefits everyone. With the climate crisis in full swing, habitat loss and development (2 sides of the same coin) at a fever pitch and invasive species threatening our shared ways of life, we need to work together to make real changes that contribute to the safety and wellbeing of ALL Mainers. By withholding sovereignty from the Wabanaki tribes, we are hamstringing their capacity to do the good work they want to do, to take care of themselves and each other, and to use their full rights as Federally recognized tribes. Compared to the rest of Maine, the Wabanaki child poverty rate is almost four times higher. This doesn't have to be true anymore, and Maine should do everything it can to right its wrongs.

Thank the committee members and succinctly summarize your take-home message.