

Annie Turnbull
Brunswick
LD 2007

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

My name is Annie Turnbull, and I live in Brunswick. I am a geologist and freelance editor writing to testify in support of LD 2007.

I studied Geology and English in college, which at first glance seem like two completely unrelated fields. But what they both offer are stories—stories of the earth, and stories of the human condition. I think the greatest lesson I learned throughout my studies was that it doesn't take much to unearth the truth, but it takes a great deal of clarity and integrity to understand it and then integrate it into the greater tapestry.

The Wabanaki Nations are an inextricable part of Maine's story; they have been weaving its threads for millennia. The injustices they have faced in the past several centuries are well-known at this point, but it has been a much more difficult effort to take the necessary actions to right those wrongs. For a state famous for its environmentalism and natural beauty (the latter of which draws a great deal of income), it is shocking to me that Maine has blocked and restricted the rights of the very people who have protected and continue to protect the land.

Harvard's Project on Indigenous Governance and Development has provided hard data that confirms a long-known truth: the Settlement Acts are causing damage to the Wabanaki Nations and, by extension, the people of Maine. LD 2007 is a step in the right direction, an opportunity to restore some sovereignty and self-determination to a people who have been invaluable members of Maine's ecology and history.

Thank you for your consideration. It is our duty, our responsibility, and our great privilege as humans on this earth to honor the truth, however inconvenient or painful it may feel.