

Michele Christle
Frankfort
LD 2007

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

From: Michele Christle, Frankfort, Maine

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

Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in support of LD 2007. Tribal sovereignty needs to be restored in order to help the Wabanaki Nations thrive. When the Wabanaki thrive, all of rural Maine thrives. LD 2007 is about fairness and equity. Removing the obstacles imposed by the 1980 Maine Indian Land Claims Settlement Act (MICSA) will help the Wabanaki Nations take advantage of federal self-determination policies, programs, and funding that elsewhere in Indian Country led to the creation of thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in goods and services produced by Native businesses. Thousands of "Mainers" stand with the Wabanaki in support of their self-determination. I am one of them.

It's time to restore the inherent right of the Wabanaki Nations in Maine to self-govern within their respective territories

Thank you for listening.