

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

From: Beth Clifford and Janet Weston, co-clerks, for Cobscook Friends (Quaker) Meeting
[mailing address: Beth Clifford, 181 Leach Point Rd, Perry ME 04667]

**Testimony in support of LD 2007:
An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations**

On behalf of the members of Cobscook Friends (Quaker) Meeting in Whiting, Maine, we urge you to support the passage of LD 2007. Because we live in Washington County, we are painfully aware of the fact that the Wabanaki Tribes have been left behind the 570 other federally recognized tribes in the United States who've had full access to federal policies of self-determination. The Wabanaki Tribes have been unable to 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.

It is time that Maine right the wrong that was committed when the Maine Indian Land Claims Settlement Act was finally passed into law more than 40 years ago. The Wabanaki experience significantly higher rates of childhood poverty (from 40-77% across the Tribes) in comparison to the rest of Maine's population (15%).

Record numbers of Maine citizens testified in favor of acknowledging the Wabanaki Tribes' self-determination during the last legislative session. The same is anticipated in support of LD 2007. We urge you to do the right thing by the Wabanaki Peoples and vote in favor of LD 2007. It's time for Maine's government to engage with the Wabanaki as sovereign nations and to recognize their right to self-determination.

Beth Clifford & Janet Weston
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Beth Clifford
Cobscook Friends (Quaker) Meeting, Whiting Maine
LD 2007

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