

Jane Herbert
Damariscotta
LD 2007

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

Jane Herbert
14 High Street
Damariscotta, ME 04543

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

It is difficult for me to understand how out dated policies regarding tribal self-determination remain in place. I firmly believe it is in the best interest of Maine to allow the Wabanaki Nations take full advantage of federal programs and funding. The 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act is a barrier to accessing funds and implementing programs that benefit Maine citizens whether indigenous or not.

Maine is hobbled by the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act because it is a barrier to the significant economic growth experienced by the other 570 federal tribes enjoying self-determination and access to federal programs created specifically for them. It has been reported that self-government for the tribes would likely mean growth in Maine's Gross Domestic Product, higher employment rates, and millions in tax revenue. Health care for the tribes would have positive impacts on neighboring communities in rural Maine.

Maine has lagged behind the actions of other states. The 570 federally recognized tribes have enjoyed economic growth but Maine continues to miss out. Maine legislation needs to be updated and embrace our developing appreciation for our first nation people. I urge you to vote to adopt LD 2007 An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations.

Thank you,

Jane Herbert
Damariscotta, Maine