

Laura Rumpf  
South Portland  
LD 2007

Greetings. I am writing to urge legislators to vote YES on LD 2007. Passing LD 2007 is all about fairness and equity. LD 2007 is sponsored by Maine House Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross and co-sponsored by a bipartisan group of more than 100 legislators, including Senate President Troy Jackson and House Minority Leader Billy Bob Faulkingham.

Due to restrictions imposed by the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA), the Wabanaki Nations have been kept from achieving the significant economic growth experienced by the other 570 federal tribes over the past 40 years who've had full access to federal policies of self-determination. Removing those obstacles would 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.

When the Wabanaki thrive, rural Maine thrives. According to the recent Harvard Report, self-government for the tribes would likely mean an additional \$330 million a year in Maine's Gross Domestic Product, more than 2,700 jobs, and \$39 million a year in state and local tax revenue. Based on the experience of other tribes, better than half the new jobs created are likely to be filled by neighbors of Wabanaki tribes in rural Maine.

I was raised in the state of Maine and am a descendant of European settlers living in Maine since the 1600s who benefited from the seizing of unceded Wabanki lands. I feel that it's time to right those wrong-doings. We must remove the barriers that have kept the Wabanaki, along with their neighbors in rural Maine, from achieving the dramatic and sustained economic growth achieved over the past 40 years by 570 federal tribes across Indian Country.

Please vote YES on LD 2007.

Sincerely,  
Laura Rumpf  
South Portland, ME