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Yarmouth
LD 2007

As a person of faith, I support passing LD 2007 as simple matter of fairness and equity. I stand with more than 1,600 Mainers from all corners of the state who testified in record numbers in favor of passing a tribal sovereignty bill based on consensus recommendations by a legislative task force four years ago.

The right to self-govern is a cornerstone of any sovereign nation and is held by all federally recognized tribes. However, the Settlement Acts prevent the tribes in Maine from exercising this right as the vast majority of tribes elsewhere in the United States do. 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.