Emily Baisden Brunswick LD 2007

It is far past time Maine takes steps towards recognizing Wabanaki sovereignty and self determination. These are human rights that the state of Maine continues to deny to the Nations and Peoples that have been here since time immemorial. I ask why would Maine want to be the only state restricting the self determination that the 570 other federally recognized tribes get? Tribal self governance is an inherent right. Restoring the self-governance capabilities of the Wabanaki Nations would not only positively impact the Tribes, but also the rural towns, that are continually left behind coastal populous areas. History shows us that when Tribes (federally recognized governments) have the autonomy to govern their lands they are better maintained, increase economic wellbeing, and uplift surrounding communities.