Susan Sarvay Portland LD 2007

I know the legislature has passed similar bills in previous years, only to have them vetoed by the governor. This for me is very difficult to understand, as I agree with her on most other issues. But It is shocking to read how the failure of the state to recognize full sovereignty for the Wabanaki tribes has denied them economic and social gains that would benefit not only tribal members, but also everyone in the state of Maine. And gains that other native people all over the country have been enjoying for many years. It is especially tragic for tribal children living in poverty; they are being denied rights to better nutrition, educational experiences and upward mobility that could benefit their families. I do not believe there could be a good reason to hold back Maine's First Nation. This amounts to racism.