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Newry - Mahoosuc Guide Service  
LD 2007

This letter is written in support of LD2007, An Act to Advance Self Determination for Wabanaki Nations.

The state of Maine's treatment of Wabanaki First Nations is unjust and unfair. I am embarrassed and ashamed of our governor and attorney general's attitude of arrogance whereby they think Maine has a right to treat Wabanaki First Nations differently than the other 49 states. Depriving the Wabanaki of the same federal rights and benefits of the other 562 federally recognized tribes has put the Wabanaki communities at an economic disadvantage. By any measure (childhood poverty rates, average family income, health services) Wabanaki communities in Maine are falling behind other First Nations communities across the country. Don't take my word for it; read the Harvard Kennedy School Report.

Maine needs to change it's paternalistic, colonial attitude towards Wabanaki First Nations. A rising tide floats all canoes and when Wabanaki communities do better economically the surrounding rural non-Native communities will do better economically as well. As a former resident of Old Town who did their student teaching at Indian Island school it's personal for me. They are our friends and neighbors, let's treat them fairly.

Thank you for your consideration.