

Polly Mahoney
Newry - Mahoosuc Guide Service
LD 2007

I am writing in favor of the passing of LD2007. I grew up in Maine and did not realize in my youth that we had such a Native population here in my home state as they have not lived with the same privilege that I have. Over the years I have worked with many Native people from the Yukon to northern Quebec and now in Maine as fellow guides in the wilderness. As I am a member of First Light Learning Journey's I have been educating myself about the Native people here in Maine and some of the horrific history we have here. It is about time to make some of the wrongs right! Maine's Wabanaki have fallen way behind all of the other tribes in the US (read the Harvard Kennedy report) and this is not right. They deserve the same privilege that other Native people are getting in other states. It is time to shed some light on the "dark ages" ways of Maine and enter the current times. I hope this legislature session can become more educated themselves and move this bill forward. Thank you for reading this.