

Chloe Geffken
Lincolntonville
LD 2007

As a lifelong resident of Lincolntonville, I urge you, my representatives, to pass LD 2007.

Currently, the Wabanaki Nations are not granted their full right of self governance, a right granted to all other federally recognized tribes. For 40 years they have not been allowed to take advantage of federal self-determination policies, programs, and funding that would have led to the creation of jobs within tribal communities and for surrounding communities. It is time to allow access to the same programs that have helped the 570 other federally recognized tribes. Self-government for the tribes would mean an additional \$330 million in Maine's GDP, 27,000 jobs, and \$39 million a year in state and local tax revenue.

It is thanks to the stewardship of the Wabanaki Nations that we have the beauty and access to wilderness and natural resources that we all enjoy as residents of Maine. They have an inherent right to make decisions for their own communities, as they did for millennia prior to the arrival of European colonizers. That right will have far reaching effects, supporting the health of our wider economy, environment, and community.

Please vote in support of LD 2007. I urge Governor Janet Mills to listen to the will of her constituents: please do not use your veto power to go against that will. LD 2007 has majority support with Mainers and legislators. Please do what is right, and what should have been done long ago.