

Elizabeth Pope
Portland
LD 2007

To: Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on
Judiciary

From: Elizabeth Pope, 245 Spring Street Unit C, Portland, ME 04102

Re: Support for LD 2007, An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki
Nations

Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Elizabeth Pope and I live in Portland. I offer this in support of LD 2007. As a proud working single mother of two, I want all of Maine's children to be offered opportunities to thrive. U.S. Census data from 2019 pegged childhood poverty rates within Wabanaki communities range from a 40% at the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk community to 77% for the Mi'kmaq Nation in Aroostook County, compared to Maine's overall childhood poverty rate for the same period of 15%. Wabanaki sovereignty. Easing the Settlement Act's restrictions will enable the Wabanaki Nations to take full advantage of federal self-determination policies that show clear economic gains across the country, and pass that gains along to children living in the Wabanaki Nations. Thank you for considering my testimony.