

In support of LD-2007:

Maine is long-overdue in granting the Wabanaki Nation advancement of self-determination as 570 federal tribes across this country have had for the past 40 years. Due to restrictions imposed by the 1980 Maine Indian Land Claims Settlement Act, Maine's Wabanaki Nation has not had access to federal programs and funding for Native businesses available to other tribes. As a result Maine's Wabanaki Nation is falling behind, has not been able to compete - and as a result, is lagging behind in health care, education and economic growth. CHILDREN have been hit the hardest.

As a teacher in Maine for over 30 years I've seen the effects of deprivation on people's lives, especially children's lives. If we could each take a moment to put ourselves in the lives of children trying to learn when hungry, suffering from sleep deprivation, having inadequate clothing, being cold or living in an abusive situation, we can't begin to know what it feels like, but we must try. Passage Of LD 2007 would improve children's lives.

We have much to learn from the wisdom of native tribes including their relationship to the Earth and its natural resources. We can be thankful to the Wabanaki Nation each time we marvel at the beauty that surrounds us. The Wabanaki Nation's respectful relationship with the environment is based on centuries of experience, living respectfully and harmoniously as part of it.

I urge you to honor the Wabanaki Nation by voting to pass LD 2007. It's Maine will be the better for it.

Thanks you.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Fullam

45 Eastern Promenade, 7H, Portland, ME 04101 (207-808-8017)

