

Eli Kao  
Belfast, ME  
LD 2007

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

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

I am writing in support of LD 2007. The original people of the land now known as  
Maine, the Wabanaki, descendants and tribal citizens should have--at the very  
least--the same rights afforded other federally recognized tribes. The 1980 settlement  
claims act is an anachronism that denies Maine tribal groups the sovereignty and  
economic opportunities that would benefit not only tribal citizens but the entire State  
of Maine. Independent research has projected the significant economic benefit to the  
State that would result from passing LD 2007. The original stewards of these lands  
deserve all due sovereignty and rights. Now is the time to address and remove the  
barriers to sovereignty and progress that the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of  
1980 has created. Thank you.