

Barbara Klie  
Scarborough  
LD 2007

Generational poverty has been a major concern of mine. Breaking the cycle of such poverty should be a priority for Maine. Currently the childhood poverty rate for Wabanaki communities is substantially higher than the average childhood poverty rate in Maine. Let's change this abysmal reality by easing the restrictions of the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act, thus enabling the Wabanaki Nations to take full advantage of federal self-determination policies that are very clearly benefiting 570 other tribes and nearby communities across the United States. This will help break the generational cycle of poverty so that the lives of future generations of Wabanaki people will be easier, and those who are not Wabanaki will no longer feel the shame of knowing their state treats unfairly the descendants of the original inhabitants of the land now called Maine.