

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

**From:** Jan Beach, 11 Nottingham Ln, Belgrade, ME 04917

**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 Jan Beach and I live in Belgrade. I submit this testimony in support of LD 2007.

In my working career, I had a position working to promote small businesses and economic development. So, I saw that Maine is made up of hard-working talented people, but as a state we do not rank high on the scale of income for families. We are missing economic opportunities to do more for our communities. LD 2007 would open our state to opportunities by capitalizing on the kinds of economic gains other federally recognized tribes in the U.S. have recorded. The Wabanaki are excluded from this growth. The Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development has estimated that self-government for the tribes could raise an additional \$330 million a year for Maine's gross domestic product, add more than 2,700 jobs, and \$39 million a year in state and local tax revenue. By lifting the Wabanaki Nations, we would lift all of us. When the economy improves for some, we all benefit through the improvement to our communities.

As a Maine citizen and taxpayer, I see that economic development possible through enacting LD 2007 is needed to protect our future.

My thanks to this committee for working on this legislation.