

Richard Thomas
Waterville
LD 2007

Honorable Representative, I urge you to vote for LD 2007 as a matter of fairness. Elsewhere in our nation, Native Americans are doing a great deal better economically than in Maine, because true autonomy simply works much better for these Americans than the outdated MICSA.

Let's be real. White settlers stole this land and traumatized and disempowered these Maine natives. These white settlers were my ancestors, and I don't mean to disrespect them. But in the past, we did not understand how historic racist attitudes affected us. It is within our power to rectify this.

Making any major change in laws governing an ethnic group is likely to cause some kinds of complications. The real question is whether LD 2007 would cause negative results that are serious enough to justify depriving these people of the right to self-governance and increased prosperity. The opponents of this bill have not shown this.

MICSA was an effort in 1980 to deal with the struggles that our Native Mainers faced, but today it is holding them back. It is time to give them equal status to Native Americans throughout our country.