

To the Honorable Senator Anne Carney (Chair), Honorable Representative Matt Moonen (Chair) and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

Good day-

I urge your Committee to vote unanimously OUGHT TO PASS on LD 2007.

The Wabanaki tribes in Maine are treated differently than the other 570 federally recognized tribes across the country. Because of the 1980 Settlement Act, when Congress passes federal legislation for tribes nationwide, the Tribes in Maine must be explicitly written into the legislation, unlike the other Indigenous Nations in the country. Allowing access to federal beneficial laws will not only help the tribes but also the non-Native citizens of rural Maine. This legislation doesn't circumvent the 1980's Settlement Act, it changes a provision in the Settlement Act that would begin the process of placing the tribes in Maine on the same footing as the other 570 federally recognized tribes.

I live in eastern Washinton County Maine, near the two Passamaquoddy reservations and it is apparent what government broken treaties and false promises have done to a proud people. They deserve the same opportunities as other tribes in the nation. PLEASE SUPPORT LD 2007 and give your support for the tribes and for rural Maine.

Thank you.

Melissa Lee

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LD 2007

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