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St. David's Episcopal, Kennebunk  
LD 2007

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

As Episcopalians, our baptismal covenant calls us to follow Christ in all aspects of our lives. This includes a call to “strive for justice and peace among all people, respect the dignity of every human being”.

As Rector at St. David’s Episcopal Church in Kennebunk, I’m writing on behalf of our Vestry and our parish to support LD 2007, An Act to Advance Self-Determination for Wabanaki Nations. We have followed our Diocese of Maine’s support of Wabanaki Sovereignty for three years and do so again today.

Tribal sovereignty does not exist in Maine, unlike in all other 49 states where it shines brightly on 570 federally recognized tribal nations as they thrive and grow. Denial of access to over 120 federal bills since 1980 has negatively impacted healthcare, tribal jurisdiction on their lands and tribal court jurisdiction in their nations.

This is a matter of doing what is right and just with incredible pragmatic results for Wabanaki nations and Maine. On average, other tribal nations have achieved 61% economic growth since 1989 while Wabanaki peoples have grown only 9%. This has led to childhood poverty in Wabanaki nations ranging from 40% to 77%. Would any Mainer accept these levels of childhood poverty in their communities when actions to greatly reduce, if not eliminate, them are available?

LD 2007 will also help Wabanaki Nations create jobs and economic growth for Wabanaki people and their non-indigenous neighbors, mostly in rural Maine.

You campaigned to do what is right for all people, and now by voting to move LD 2007 to our Legislature, you will take action to keep your promise of doing what is right for all people, including Wabanaki people and families. Please vote “Ought to Pass” for LD 2007 and send it to our state legislators for their approval.