

I am writing in support of LD 2007 - An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations

Due to restrictions imposed by the *1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA)*, the Wabanaki Nations have been kept from achieving the significant economic growth experienced by the other 570 federal tribes over the past 40 years who've had full access to federal policies of self-determination. I believe passionately that the Wabanaki Nations deserve the same self-determination and economic growth available to the other federal tribes. And that all Mainers deserve the good this legislation will bring to us all.

Maine's tribes, nations, and bands have missed out on so many programs and much funding that has economically benefited federal tribes elsewhere. The average income growth since 1989 has been 61% for tribal citizens not located in Maine, but only 9% for Wabanaki citizens in Maine; Maine's overall income growth for the same period was 25%. As always, poverty hits children the hardest.

As I read through the Sponsor's Proposed Amendments to LD 2007, I felt profound agreement with the legislation in returning to Wabanaki citizens self determination, the control of their tribal lands regarding managing their natural resources, and control as stated in the legislation of criminal and civil proceedings. The legislation also repeals the provisions of the Maine Implementing Act regarding the takings of tribal lands for public use, and specifies how tribal lands can be increased.

As I read through the legislation, I experienced real joy. The United States has amply demonstrated that legal agreements can be changed. Please bring to us all the joy we deserve by passing LD 2007.

Nancy Walker
Portland
LD 2007

I am writing in support of LD 2007 - An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations

Due to restrictions imposed by the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA), the Wabanaki Nations have been kept from achieving the significant economic growth experienced by the other 570 federal tribes over the past 40 years who've had full access to federal policies of self-determination. I believe passionately that the Wabanaki Nations deserve the same self-determination and economic growth available to the other federal tribes. And that all Mainers deserve the good this legislation will bring to us all.

Maine's tribes, nations, and bands have missed out on so many programs and much funding that has economically benefited federal tribes elsewhere. The average income growth since 1989 has been 61% for tribal citizens not located in Maine, but only 9% for Wabanaki citizens in Maine; Maine's overall income growth for the same period was 25%. As always, poverty hits children the hardest.

As I read through the Sponsor's Proposed Amendments to LD 2007, I felt profound agreement with the legislation in returning to Wabanaki citizens self determination, the control of their tribal lands regarding managing their natural resources, and control as stated in the legislation of criminal and civil proceedings. The legislation also repeals the provisions of the Maine Implementing Act regarding the takings of tribal lands for public use, and specifies how tribal lands can be increased.

As I read through the legislation, I experienced real joy. The United States has amply demonstrated that legal agreements can be changed. Please bring to us all the joy we deserve by passing LD 2007.