

Mary Jo Bateman
Rockport
LD 2007

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

My name is Mary Jo Bateman. I live in Rockport, ME.

Today I urge your Committee to vote unanimously for 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.

With the Tribes not being able to access various federal funding their self-determination and economic vitality have been stunted. Allowing access to federal beneficial laws will not only benefit the tribes but also the non-Native citizens of rural Maine. This legislation doesn't circumvent the 1980's Settlement Act. This legislation changes a provision in the Settlement Act that would at least begin the process of placing the tribes in Maine on the same footing as the other 570 federally recognized tribes.

PLEASE SUPPORT LD 2007 and help us start putting the tribes AND rural Maine on a path to prosperity. Thank you for your support.