

Susan Cook
Portland
LD 2007

My name is Susan Cook and I am a resident of Portland. I am writing in support of LD 2007, An Act to Advance Self Determination for Wabanaki Nations.

I am a member of First Parish in Portland, a Unitarian Universalist congregation. Our faith affirms, promotes, and calls us to act on issues of justice and equality in human relations and in recognition of the inherent worth and dignity of every person. LD 2007 would correct the inequities of the 1980 settlement implementing act, which has put the Wabanaki tribes in a category separate from all other federally recognized tribes in the United States, and stifled the Tribes' right to self-determination, causing both cultural and economic hardship.

While the settlement implementing act provided some benefits to the Wabanaki tribes, it is time to address the shortcomings that had deleterious economic and moral effects. LD 2007 will enable the Wabanaki Nations to take full advantage of federal self-determination policies that are very clearly benefiting 570 other tribes and nearby communities across the country.

This legislation is overdue. I urge you to vote Ought to Pass of LD 2007, to help restore the Wabanaki people's sovereignty and right to self-determination.

Thank you.