

Deirdre Whitehead  
PEMBROKE  
LD 2007

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

From: Deirdre Whitehead, 240 Old County Road, Pembroke, ME 04666

Re: Support for LD 2007, An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki  
Nations

To Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee,  
My name is Deirdre Whitehead and I live in Pembroke. I have lived and worked with  
the Passamaquoddy Tribe for over 20 years here in Washington County and would  
like to testify in support of LD 2007. I remember the 1980 Settlement Act, and feel  
that as MICSA provides, the Act should be amended. The last 40 years have kept the  
Passamaquoddy Tribe and our surrounding rural towns in a vice grip. It is time to  
begin a new relationship with the Wabanaki Nations to better the economy and  
environment around us for everyone in Maine.

I work in the conservation community and see that that the Wabanaki are very  
knowledgeable about the environment and have vast experience and understanding  
about many ecological practices that would be of potential benefit to climate change  
and other ecological changes here on the coast affecting many people in Maine. They  
have practical experience and heritage that goes way back before European settlement  
in Maine. Looking around the country, I see what the other 570 federal tribes have  
been able to accomplish through federal policies of self-determination, and wish that  
for the Maine tribes/

By removing obstacles to the Settlement Act, the Wabanaki Nations in Maine could  
take advantage of many self-determination policies, programs and funding that could  
improve the rural economy as well as the conditions on the reservation communities,  
which are very disadvantaged, compared to most other communities in Maine.

Self-determination should be available to all citizens of Maine!

As a working person, I have collaborated and partnered with many Wabanaki people  
who work for the betterment of our environment here in Maine. Removing the  
obstacles to the Settlement Act would help the Wabanaki Nations take advantage of  
federal self-determination policies and bring a better quality of life to Wabanaki  
people and the rest of us in Maine.

Thank-you for your time and for listening.

Deirdre Whitehead