

Jessica McKinney
Portland
LD 2007

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

Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Jessica McKinney and I live in Portland. I am writing in support of LD
2007.

Maine is falling behind. Outside of Maine, there's a 30-year economic boom going on
in Indian Country.

The Settlement Act was never meant to be set in stone.

The politicians who drafted the 1980 Settlement Act called it a "living document"
that should not be set in stone as it has been for more than 40 years to the detriment of
the Wabanaki and rural Maine communities and the state of Maine. MICSA provides
for the State of Maine, Passamaquoddy Tribe and Penobscot Nation to amend the law
within broad areas. It's time to modernize this broken deal and begin a new era of
partnership with the Wabanaki Nations for the betterment of everyone in Maine.

The Wabanaki have been protecting the environment and maintaining sustainable
ecological practices for millennia, long before European settlement of Maine. They
will continue to do so; it's their heritage and birthright as Wabanaki peoples.

I am one of thousands of Mainers who stand with the Wabanaki in support of their
self-determination.

It's time to remove the barriers that have kept the Wabanaki, along with their
neighbors in rural Maine, from achieving the dramatic and sustained economic
growth achieved over the past 40 years by 570 federal tribes across Indian Country.

Thank you