

Jonah Fertig-Burd
DURHAM
LD 2007

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in support of LD 2007 and supporting fairness and justice for the Wabanaki Tribes. 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. Removing those obstacles would help the Wabanaki Nations take advantage of federal self-determination policies, programs and funding that elsewhere in Indian Country led to the creation of thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in goods and services produced by Native businesses.

This particularly impacts Wabanaki children as the rates of poverty in Wabanaki communities are much higher than the rest of Maine. By supporting fairness and justice you can help Wabanaki children and their families. And when Wabanaki communities thrive, all of Maine will thrive.

Thank you for supporting this bill.

Sincerely,
Jonah Fertig-Burd