

Wendy Cherubini  
Portland  
LD 2007

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Wendy Cherubini and I live in Portland. I write to testify in support of LD 2007.

The 1980 Settlement Act seemed like a good step forward, but sadly, as has become abundantly clear over the past 40+ years, it was not good for the Wabanaki tribes, or for the communities around tribal lands or Maine generally. It is not enough to simply acknowledge that a building is on Wabanaki land. We need to do more.

There is no reason to treat Maine tribes differently than tribes in other states. The Settlement Act can and should be amended. We as a state need to stop clinging desperately to what is obviously a failed approach. We need to rise above our misguided past.

The Harvard Report showed, based on the experience of other tribes, and comparing that to the experience of Wabanaki tribes in Maine since 1980, that we have missed out on significant economic growth, state and local tax revenue and most importantly a better quality of life, improved health and reduced poverty for both tribal members and people living in nearby communities.

It is past time to remove the barriers that have kept the Wabanaki from achieving the sustained economic growth achieved by 570 federal tribes across Indian Country over the past 40 years. Easing the Settlement Act's restrictions will enable the Wabanaki Nations to take full advantage of federal self-determination policies that are benefiting 560 other tribes and their nearby communities across the country.

Please support LD 2007. It is the right thing to do for the Wabanaki and Maine. The time is now.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service.

Sincerely,  
Wendy Cherubini