

Cherie Galyean
Bar Harbor
LD 2007

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

From: Cherie Galyean, 33 Frenchmans Hill Rd., Bar Harbor, ME 04609

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

Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is
Cherie Galyean and I live in Bar Harbor. I am submitting testimony in support of LD
2007.

My family has been in this stretch of land since before it became known as the State
of Maine. I know what is required of those who live here. Among others, the need to
look out for one's neighbors has always been paramount. We only succeed as a
community if we recognize our interdependence and help each other, even if we
disagree occasionally.

As a people and as a state, Mainers have failed in supporting our Wabanaki neighbors
since our arrival in this land. The Settlement Act of 1980 is only the most recent
example of this failure. The Act was flawed in conception, execution and
implementation. Multiple studies, including the most recent one from Harvard, show
that limiting the ability of the Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, Maliseet and Mi'kmaq to
benefit from federal laws—the only tribes in the nation to have this restriction—has
caused untold harm and kept these tribes back while others across the nation are
blossoming.

Because of the interdependence of our communities, this unfair burden not only is
limiting the economic development of the Wabanaki people, but it is limiting the
economic development of some of our most rural areas. Allowing the tribes to
flourish not only benefits them, but benefits Maine. Holding back rights hurts
ourselves nearly as much as it hurts them.

I sincerely ask for your support for LD 2007. Let's let failed experiments end and
embrace our future together, as neighbors.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Cherie Galyean
Bar Harbor