

Katharine O'Dell
Blue Hill
LD 2007

Re:LD 2007, a support of Wabanaki sovereignty. This very important bill is essential to fairness and justice in Maine. Through work with Wabanaki people and my church (the Unitarian church in Ellsworth) I've come to see how much Maine has fallen behind other states by continuing to hold tribal communities back economically. At a time when tribes outside of Maine are thriving, our native tribes continue to be constrained and to have unacceptably high rates of child poverty. So much of the beauty of the Blue Hill peninsula and the Penobscot River demonstrate the long history of Wabanaki stewardship. The state can't do enough to redress past violence and oppression, but LD2007 would be a step forward.