

Sarah Marx  
Orono  
LD 2007

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

From: Sarah Marx, 4 Peters St, Orono, ME 04473

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

Dear Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Sarah Marx and I live in Orono. I am writing in support of LD 2007. I grew up in Maine and two of the things I have always been proudest of as a Mainer are 1) Mainers' deep commitment to fair treatment for all and 2) our deeply rooted practicality.

The 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA) has created an unfair situation for the Wabanaki tribes in which they are unable to take advantage of federal self-determination policies, programs and funding that elsewhere in Indian Country have led to the creation of thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in goods and services produced by Native businesses. This injustice has resulted in economic suffering for the Wabanaki and by extension for our whole state. When Wabanaki income growth over a 35-year time period is only 9% compared to 61% for tribal citizens living outside of Maine, and when Wabanaki child poverty continues at over 40% for all tribes (compared to 15% child poverty rates for non-Wabanaki children in Maine) we have an issue of deep unfairness and injustice on our hands.

We also have a practical problem that can be solved. And Mainers know how to solve practical problems! Please pass LD2007 to right the unfair and unjust consequences of MISCA and to create greater economic growth opportunities and health for the Wabanaki and for our whole state.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Marx