

Ann MacEachern
Acton..Maine Conservatin Voters
LD 2007

Myname is Ann MacEachern. I live at 462 Sam Page Road, Acton, Maine
Although I belong to several conservation groups as I feel the most pressing problem we have is climate upheaval, today I am speaking as a parent and retired public school teacher.

As an art teacher I served between 200 and 600 students annually depending on which schools I was assigned to. I have seen the effects of childhood poverty firsthand. Lack of funds at home contribute to food insecurity, lack of clothing appropriate to the season, poor personal hygiene, infrequent visits to health professionals, and sporadic school attendance. These conditions take a huge toll on a child's ability to learn. Early struggles compound from one year to the next and students become disengaged from their education.

I see that Maine's childhood poverty number hovers around 15%. Among the Wabanaki tribes it varies between 40% and 70%. This fact alone is reason enough to pass LD2007 for the prosperity of the Wabanaki people.

I watched the Harvard professor who researched and wrote the recent report on how self determination generally lifts the average income level for most tribes. My takeaway from that report was his finding that when tribal income improved there was a spillover of jobs and income into surrounding communities. This would be very important in a rural state like Maine.

Please vote to pass LD2007.

Thank you for considering my input.