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For 40 years, restrictions in the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA) have blocked the Wabanaki Nations from accessing all of the federal self-determination policies that helped 570 other tribes create thousands of jobs and generate hundreds of millions in economic activity. While tribal income outside of Maine grew 61% since 1989, Wabanaki income grew only 9% (compared to Maine's 25% overall). Childhood poverty in Wabanaki communities ranges from 40% to 77%, compared to Maine's overall rate of 15%.

It's time to remove these barriers.

The Settlement Act was designed to evolve. The politicians who drafted the 1980 Settlement Act called it a "living document" meant to be updated. The law itself allows Maine, the Passamaquoddy Tribe, and Penobscot Nation to amend it. After more than 40 years of harm, it's time to modernize this broken deal.