

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
naomi.miguel@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
ken.degenfelder@mail.house.gov

RE: Support for H.R. 6707, Advancing Equality for Wabanaki Nations Act

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Westerman,

I am testifying on behalf of Citizens' Climate Lobby Maine, which has 2300 members across the state. Citizens' Climate Lobby advocates for effective federal climate legislation.

CCL Maine supports the Advancing Equality for Wabanaki Nations Act because it is only fair that Maine's tribes are treated like the 570 other federally recognized tribes. Citizens' Climate Lobby's mission is to create the political will for a livable world, and a livable world is one in which all people are treated fairly and have equal access to clean air, food and water. Since 1980, even though tribes in Maine never ceded all the rights guaranteed to them as federally recognized tribes, they have been unable to benefit from the more than 150 federal laws passed since then, missing out on opportunities for economic development, increased access to health care, to respond to natural disasters, and to expand environmental protections. H. R. 6707 would ensure that the Wabanaki tribes benefit from future federal laws enacted for the benefit of Indian tribes, giving them parity with all other federally recognized tribes. It would also ensure parity between the Maine tribes in enabling the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) to apply to the Houlton Band and Mi'kmaq Nation in the same way that the law currently applies to the Penobscot Nation and Passamaquoddy Tribe.

We urge you to grant the tribes parity with other federally recognized tribes as a matter of fairness. When the Maine tribes prosper, we all prosper.

Sincerely,
Sarah M. Braik
Citizens' Climate Lobby Maine

cc: Representative Jared Golden, aaron.sege@mail.house.gov
Representative Chellie Pingree, evan.johnston@mail.house.gov