

When sending an email to Senator King, here are instructions on both how to submit and general guidance on how to structure an effective message.

How to Email Senator King

- Go to [this link to fill out the form to communicate with Senator King and his office.](#)
- In the Please select the topic area that most closely aligns with your message* section, choose Indian Affairs.
- The 'Thank You' page does not interface with the database: it just displays automatically when you click submit.
- Within a few minutes of filling the form and clicking submit, you should receive a confirmation e-mail containing the text of the message you submitted. This, and this alone, indicates successful alignment with the contact form.
- Due to longstanding congressional courtesy and limited resources, Senator King is only able to respond to his own constituents.
- Please refrain from mentioning other elected officials, including Reps. Golden or Pingree, Senator Collins, or Governor Mills.

How to Structure Your Message

- Start by providing background about who you are (teacher, parent, small business owner, etc.), which town you are from in Maine, and briefly explain why you support HR 6707. Please make it your own. Here are some examples of how you could explain your support of HR 6707:
 - **Example:** I am part of a coalition of 120 organizations advocating for tribal rights on the state and now federal level for the Wabanaki Tribes in Maine. This to me is a fairness issue—the tribes in Maine are an outlier compared to the other 570 federally recognized tribes.
 - **Example:** I live in rural Maine near where the tribes are located. For over 40 years, the tribes in Maine have been left out of important federal legislation that would benefit rural Maine by providing the tribes and surrounding communities with access to federal dollars for critical services. I believe that when the tribes are successful, rural Maine is successful.
 - **Example:** I live in Maine and support the Wabanaki Tribes and rural Maine. For too long, Maine has been left out of important federal funding that would benefit the tribes but also rural Maine. As a state, we would be in an uproar if 49 other states received funding for a particular service or set of programs, like education, and Maine didn't. This is exactly what has happened in Maine over the past 40 years. It's time to modernize and treat rural Maine and the tribes fairly.
 - **Example:** This approach is one step forward. HR 6707 is not retroactive to all the federal Indian laws which have passed since the Settlement Act was enacted in 1980. Instead, this would begin the process of placing the tribes on the same footing as the other 570 federally recognized tribes in 49 other states.
 - **Example:** Maine's state motto is Dirigo – to lead. In 1980, Congress, the State of Maine and the tribes believed that they were moving forward when the Settlement Act was passed. Maybe it was the best deal that could be reached at

the time, but we now have had 42 years to understand the drawbacks of the Settlement Act to the tribes and rural Maine. It's now time to modernize the Settlement Act for the tribes and rural Maine.

- **Example:** I'm part of a coalition that has been working on tribal issues in Maine for some time. I understand there was a settlement agreed to in 1980, but like any agreement, it can and should be amended as we learn more about how it could be improved.
- After you explain in your own words why you support HR 6707, transition to a more direct “ask” of Senator King. The goal should be to gently suggest that Senator King should — and is expected to — support this effort, because of the values he has demonstrated, his legacy as a principled and forward-thinking policymaker, his past work on these issues, etc. Examples of concrete asks of Senator King:
 - **Example:** I know you are a keen observer of history, and I have every confidence that you will be on the right side of history on this issue. I look forward to hearing back from you about your position on this.
 - **Example:** I know that you are someone who does their homework and wants to understand not just the history in Maine but the development of tribal sovereignty across the country since the 1970s. I hope you will work to help modernize the settlement act to support the Wabanaki tribes' ability to control their futures. Please let me know your position on this legislation.
 - **Example:** I know that supporting this effort is in line with your longstanding legacy of being on the side of equality and fairness. Please respond with your position on this legislation.
Example: Improving the Wabanaki tribes' self-determination may well be the civil rights issue of our era in Maine. I know we can count on you to help right a 40-year wrong that has treated tribes in Maine unfairly, and I am looking forward to your response.

Background on HR 6707

- July 14th the House of Representatives passed HR 6707 *Advancing Equality for Wabanaki Nations Act* with bipartisan support.
- The bill would update federal law to give Wabanaki tribes the same access to future beneficial federal laws as nearly every other federally recognized tribe in America.
- The bill passed as part of the FY2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The NDAA passed the House on a 329-101 vote. This legislation was added to the NDAA bill in a package of amendments that earned a wide bipartisan margin of support with a 277-150 vote.
- The bill has received broad bipartisan support from legislators in the [Maine State House of Representatives](#), the [Maine State Senate](#), and from [members of Maine's forest products industry](#).
- President Biden's [U.S. Department of the Interior](#) supports the bill.
- The [House Natural Resources Committee passed the bill on a bipartisan vote](#) in June.

- Currently, the Wabanaki tribes in Maine are excluded from many beneficial federal laws that apply to nearly every other federally recognized tribe in the country due to unique terms in the Maine Indian Land Claims Settlement Act (MICSA). Examples of laws that MICSA has prevented from applying to the Wabanaki tribes in the past include the Violence Against Women Act, which allows tribes to prosecute non-Indian defendants for domestic violence crimes against tribal members; the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, which allows tribes to employ much-needed medical professionals who are licensed in another state; and the Stafford Act, which allows tribes to directly seek federal disaster relief and emergency assistance.
- H.R. 6707 would address this exclusion by amending MICSA to ensure that all future federal laws enacted to benefit Indian tribes apply to the tribes in Maine.