

Jared Golden sponsored new legislation which, if enacted, could harm Maine's economy by threatening the forest products industry, which is responsible for over 30,000 jobs.

BACKUP:

Jared Golden introduced H.R. 6707, "Advancing Equality for Wabanaki Nations Act," which would change the terms of the 1980 land claims settlements acts, thus creating jurisdictional changes that could create uncertainty for the 30,000-job forest products industry:

- In February 2022, Jared Golden introduced H.R. 6707, Advancing Equality for Wabanaki Nations Act. (H.R. 6707, [Actions](#), Introduced: 2/11/22)
- Golden's bill attempts to change the terms of the 1980 land claims settlements act, which deprive Maine's tribes of a range of sovereign powers and privileges. "In a letter from her chief legal counsel, Gerald Reid, Mills made it clear she is committed to the framework created by the controversial 1980 land claims settlement acts, which deprive Maine's tribes of a wide range of sovereign powers and privileges enjoyed by the United States' other 570 federally recognized tribes. Congress, Reid wrote, should not intervene to change the terms of the 42-year-old act and the tribes should negotiate with the state for changes, as the settlement envisioned... Reid blasted Golden's bill - H.R. 6707, the Advancing Equality for Wabanaki Nations Act - for attempting to change the terms of the land claims settlement without the state of Maine's consent." (Colin Woodard, "Gov. Mills opposes Rep. Golden's bill to make future federal tribal laws apply to Maine tribes," [Portland Press Herald](#), 4/15/22)
- **According to the Maine Forest Products Council, the forest products industry contributes an estimated \$8.1 billion and over 30,000 jobs to Maine's economy.** "The estimated overall annual (2019) economic contribution of Maine's forest products sector, including multiplier effects, was an estimated \$8.1 billion in output, over 31,000 jobs, and \$1.7 billion in labor income (Table 2). The total employment impact of 31,822 jobs in 2019 is equivalent to about 4 percent of the jobs in Maine. Put another way, roughly 1 out of 25 jobs in Maine is associated with the forest products sector." (Maine Forest Products Council, "Maine forest products industry contributes \$8.1 billion, 31,822 jobs," [Website](#), Accessed: 4/21/22)
 - **The Maine Forest Products Council (MFPC) represents the forest industry in Maine—an industry that has over 30,000 direct and indirect jobs in the forest management and wood manufacturing business.** "My name is Patrick Strauch, Executive Director of the Maine Forest Products Council. I appreciate this opportunity to testify on H.R. 6707, 'Advancing Equality for Wabanaki Nations Act.' The Maine Forest Products Council ('MFPC') represents the forest industry with over 30,000 direct and indirect jobs in the forest management and wood manufacturing business, covering 8 million acres of forest land. Our members cut across the whole spectrum of forest-related jobs from landowners, loggers, truckers, tree farmers, foresters to paper mills and lumber processors." (House Committee on Natural Resources, Testimony of Patrick Strauch, Executive Director of the Maine Forest Products Council, [Testimony](#), 3/31/22)

- **In March 2022, the executive director of the Maine Forest Products Council testified in opposition to the jurisdictional changes proposed in Golden’s bill, H.R. 6707.** “Unfortunately, MFPC has reached the conclusion that it must oppose the jurisdictional changes proposed in H.R. 6707. The points of particular concern are the proposed amendments to Section 6(h) (25 USC § 1725(h)) and Section 16(b) (25 USC § 1735(b)) of MICSA. In its current form, Section 6(h) provides that general federal Indian law applies in Maine except to the extent it would affect or preempt Maine state jurisdictional laws. Section 16(b) provides that following the enactment of MICSA, new federal legislation that would affect or preempt Maine state jurisdictional law will not apply in Maine unless Congress specifically so provides.” (House Committee on Natural Resources, Testimony of Patrick Strauch, Executive Director of the Maine Forest Products Council, [Testimony](#), 3/31/22)
- **The proposed changes in H.R. 6707 would reportedly create great uncertainty for members of the Maine Forest Products Council.** “Over time, the longstanding jurisdictional framework in the MIA, which was an essential element of the settlement between the Tribes and the State of Maine, would disappear. It would be replaced, piecemeal, by new laws which would provide the Tribes with significant regulatory and other authority over their far-flung holdings—including ‘treatment as a state’ status for such laws as the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act. For MFPC members this would introduce great uncertainty into our ability to manage our lands.” (House Committee on Natural Resources, Testimony of Patrick Strauch, Executive Director of the Maine Forest Products Council, [Testimony](#), 3/31/22)