

Diane Vernesoni  
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LD 958

I URGE you to vote OUGHT NOT TO PASS on LD958, An Act to prohibit Eminent Domain on Tribal Lands. As the ancestor of a "Founding Family" of Maine on my mother's side, I take great exception to this bill. We are all "indigenous" who are born here and have grown here. Some of us came earlier than others. The Indians came from Asia before others made the trek from Europe. All the lands of the new territory were "up for grabs." White, brown and red people all died in this struggle to survive and thrive in the new territory. Some won, some lost the fights for territory. They also lost to accidents, disease and starvation. Why do I say all this? Because we seem to think that the Indians, who lost the battles, need to be somehow compensated for their loss. No one compensated the farmer who lost his life trying to stay alive in the new territory. More people came and more sharing had to happen. The bottom line is that the Indians need to live by the same laws that we do. If a road was going through our land, we would lose it. So should they. The Indians settled here just like the white man and the black and brown man. They should have the same laws as we all do. Thank you for your consideration. Please vote OUGHT NOT TO PASS on LD958.