

Martha Bentley
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LD 958

I am writing in support of this bill. The bill restores fairness, and respects Wabanaki Nations' sovereignty over their own lands. LD 958 removes the state of Maine's power to take tribal land through eminent domain, a protection already enjoyed by almost all other federally recognized tribes. Federal law protects most tribal nations from state-level eminent domain, but the 1980 Settlement Acts mean the Wabanaki Nations' in Maine are being unfairly excluded from these federal protections.

This bill allows for collaboration, not conflict. If a project could truly benefit the public, the state, and the tribes, the state should work with tribal leaders to find a solution. This legislation is a protective measure to guarantee consultation and mutual agreement before any action is taken on tribal lands. It is the right thing to do.

LD 958 restores the fundamental principle that the Wabanaki Nations are sovereign governments with inherent power to regulate their territories.