

Naneen Chace-Ortiz
Westbrook
LD 958

Good morning, Representative Billy Bob Faulkingham (R-Winter Harbor) and the Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Naneen Chace-Ortiz, and I live in Westbrook. I speak on behalf of the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN). We support LD 958, An Act to Prohibit Eminent Domain on Tribal Lands, from a faith tradition that declares that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love, and compassion.

LD 958 restores fairness and respects the Wabanaki Nations' sovereignty over their own lands. The bill aims to protect Wabanaki Nations' tribal land from being taken by the state of Maine through eminent domain without consultation, aligning with federal protections already granted to most other tribes. This bill ensures collaboration and mutual agreement before any action is taken on tribal lands, preventing historical injustices like the 1925 eminent domain seizure of Passamaquoddy Reservation land.

This bill encourages collaboration, not conflict and gives voice to The Wabanaki Nations. It aligns with the Unitarian Universalist value of working towards a diverse multicultural world where all feel welcome and can thrive.

I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on this bill to take a step towards justice and fairness. The Wabanaki Nations should not be treated differently from other federally recognized tribes. This bill ensures fairness, respects sovereignty, and prevents future injustices. LD 958 restores a fundamental principle that the Wabanaki Nations are sovereign governments with inherent power to regulate their territories.

Thank you.