

Testimony supporting LD 958, An Act to Prohibit Eminent Domain on Tribal Lands.

Presented by Representative Faulkingham of Winter Harbor.

Cosponsored by Senator Moore of Washington and

Representatives: Caruso of Caratunk, Dana of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Dill of Old Town, Henderson of Rumford, Kuhn of Falmouth, Mingo of Calais, Poirier of Skowhegan, Smith of Palermo and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Judith Netherland, I am testifying on behalf of the benefits of LD 958. Having an undergraduate and graduate degree in history, my topic for my master's thesis was the importance of implementing LD 291, *An Act to Require Teaching of Maine Native American History and Culture in Maine*. This law and subsequent laws that benefit the Indigenous communities in Maine are vital to ensuring that Maine stays a leader in helping the Wabanaki people protect their history, their culture and their rights.

As Federally recognized tribes, the Wabanaki Nation has the right to experience the same piece of mind that other Federally recognized tribes enjoy, the right to know their lands are protected from eminent domain, something that was taken from them with the 1980 Settlement Acts. They also deserve the right to have a say in decisions made regarding the use of their lands. Passing this into law would be another step forward for Maine in recognizing the changes that are needed to ensure that the Wabanaki Nation and their lands are protected. This is a necessary step in helping to protect the people of the Wabanaki Nation now and for years to come.

LD 958 is a resonating affirmation that the Wabanaki Nation deserves to be treated with the same respect as other Federally recognized tribes. It represents fairness, it gives the Wabanaki Nation a voice over how their land is treated and is a great gesture of respect to their sovereignty. Please help Maine continue to be an example in the protection of our Indigenous people.

Thank you for your time.
Judith "Judy" Netherland