Jude Fewell Hancock LD 958

Most other federally recognized tribes of this nation already are protected from having even more of their land taken with no say. It is even against federal law to seize tribal land without consultation. This basic protection would bring Maine into the present alongside the rest of the United States as we try to reconcile the harm done towards the first stewards of this land we all now call home. A simple principle most are familiar with: Love thy neighbor. Would you walk over to your neighbors property and build a road that cuts through their front yard without even a conversation about it? Actually think about that. This bill only calls for that basic decency of collaboration, so that a resolution is reached that works for all parties. Another simple principle: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." If we want to live in a world of respect, fairness and justice, we have to give respect, fairness and justice. Whether religious or just a decent human being, it is the logical, adult thing to do to include people affected by something in the conversation. Please respect the native peoples of Maine. After all that has already been done, it would be a real shame on the state of Maine if we continue to choose to be one of the least respectful and forward-acting states in this country. What would that say about us? What legacy do we want to build going forward as Mainers? One of selfishness and disrespect or one of honor and civility?