

Mia Bertelli
Waldo
LD 958

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee and all to whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my profound support of LD 958. I deeply believe that the Wabanaki community and all indigenous tribes are due every right of sovereignty, which includes the right to deny or consent to any requests for the use of their lands by other parties. This bill would give them the fundamental right that nearly all federally recognized tribes already have, and which ought to be due them regardless, to be protected from "eminent domain" being used as a tool for land seizure. I am honestly in wonder that it is still necessary to provide more reasons why this is a good idea. We know our history, and we know what it looks like to allow for human flourishing by pursuing reparations for the ongoing crimes of settler colonialism and opening the door for healing and mutual respect and collaboration. This is an easy step that we can take in that direction, and I can think of zero life-affirming reasons to not pass this bill. Please use the power you have to affect the course and quality of countless lives to pass this bill and give the Wabanaki the right to land sovereignty and protection from eminent domain.

With gratitude for your time and consideration, thank you.