

Leslie Runser
South Portland
LD 958

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee,
My name is Leslie Runser; I live at 8 Drew Road in South Portland. Today, I am submitting testimony in support of LD 958: "An Act To Prohibit Eminent Domain on Tribal Lands". LD 958 will help to restore fairness and it respects the Wabanaki Nations' sovereignty over their lands. No person should have their land taken without consultation or agreement. LD 958 removes the state of Maine's power to take Wabanaki Nations' tribal land through eminent domain, a protection already afforded to almost all other federally recognized tribes.

LD 958 also promotes collaboration and cooperation between the public and state officials and the tribes before action is taken on tribal lands. It ensures that the tribes have a voice in the care of their lands. Finally, LD 958 is a step towards justice and fairness. The Wabanaki Nations should not be treated differently from other federally recognized tribes. LD 958 restores the fundamental principle that the Wabanaki Nations are sovereign governments with inherent power to regulate their territories.

Thank you,

Leslie Runser
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