

Andrew Stevenson
Belfast
LD 958

To the legislators on the Judiciary Committee:

I urge you to support LD 958 with an “Ought To Pass” recommendation. The reasons to support this measure are straightforward. And — reasons aside — it is the right and honorable action my legislators should take to correct a historic injustice.

But so often, “right and honorable” is not a compelling enough motive, so here are the reasons:

- (1) LD 958 establishes that the Wabanaki Nations must be consulted by the State before any lawful use of the State’s eminent domain powers.
- (2) The measure gives the Nations right equal to those of other federally recognized tribes, eliminating any conflict between state and federal policies.
- (3) It reduces the chances of lengthy legal battles between the State and the Nations regarding the Nations’ right to govern its own territories.

The Wabanaki Nations are sovereign governments with the inherent power to regulate their own lands. As such, they predate Maine’s creation under the terms of the Missouri Compromise of 1820. LD 958 is an opportunity to re-set the relationship between the State and the Nations as a relationship between equals.

I thank Rep. Faulkingham (HD-12) for sponsoring this measure and will urge my legislators, Rep. Jan Dodge and Sen. Chip Curry, to support its passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of LD 958.

Sincerely,
Andrew Stevenson; Belfast, Maine