

Testimony In Support of LD 958  
“*An Act to Prohibit Eminent Domaine on Maine Tribal Lands*”  
Before the Committee on Judiciary  
April 4, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and other members of the Judiciary Committee. I am testifying today to express strong support for LD 958 and to thank Representative Faulkingham for introducing this bill.

I support this bill, and urge you to do the same, because it respects Wabanaki Nations’ inherent and universal sovereignty over their lands and waters. Further LD 958 will encourage communication and collaboration between the state and the Tribes and can help heal a relationship that is rife with conflict and poor communication.

Nearly every other federally recognized tribe in the United States enjoys this protection for their lands. There is no good reason why Maine’s Tribes should be relegated to second class status and not be afforded the same rights as other Tribes. It is time to ensure that Wabanaki Nations are on equal footing with other Tribes in the country.

Under this legislation, the state of Maine will no longer have the power to take the Nations’ lands without their consultation and agreement. History shows repeatedly the harm that has been done to Wabanaki communities when their land is taken without their consent. This legislation will encourage the state to work toward mutual agreement with the Wabanaki Tribes before action is taken on their lands.

Thank you for considering this important legislation, which is a key step toward fairness and justice for Wabanaki Nations.

With gratitude for your service to all who call Maine home,

Jennifer Melville  
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