

Samuel Brown
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LD 958

Senator Faulkingham and Judiciary Committee members:

Thank you for considering this bill, to which I am testifying in favor.

I am a Maine licensed forester and own land in Cambridge and Parkman, sensitive to the opportunities and responsibilities of land stewardship, and aware of the awesome potential powers of eminent domain.

As written, this bill restores fairness and respects Wabanaki Nations' sovereignty over their own lands, and restores a fundamental principle that the Wabanaki Nations are sovereign governments with inherent power to regulate their territories.

I believe consultation is a mature society's ultimate decision-making process, wherein all interested parties have a responsibility to offer their perspective to whatever problem is being addressed, respectfully consider all other perspectives to arrive at a mutual solution, and then agree to abide by the decision wholeheartedly in order to determine its effectiveness.

I believe the 1980 Maine Settlement Acts do not allow full Wabanaki inclusion in any Maine eminent domain decisions, a right enjoyed by almost all other federally recognized Tribes in the country. This bill will address that exclusion.

I encourage the Committee to vote Ought to Pass on this bill.

Thank you.

Sam Brown