

This is testimony in support of LD 958: An Act to Prohibit Eminent Domain on Tribal Lands. If the State of Maine feels a need for the use of tribal lands, representatives from the state should meet with the Wabanaki Nation(s) affected as two equally sovereign entities. This represent a step toward amending the 1980 Act to Implement the Maine Indian Claims Settlement and the 2023 Mi'kmaq Nation Restoration Act to prevent the state from seizing Wabanaki Nations' land for public uses. Federal law prevents most tribes from having their lands taken through state-level eminent domain, but due to the 1980 Settlement Act, Maine tribes do not have that protection. This bill proposes to change that and begin the pathway for Tribal Sovereignty. This legislation promotes collaboration, communication, and mutual agreement – all important for any healthy relationship. I urge you to vote to forward this bill as “Ought To Pass’ and continue the rightful path to full recognition of the Wabanaki Nation.