

Johnny Sanchez
Winterport
LD 958

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Johnny Sanchez and I'm a resident of Winterport. I'm writing today to urge you all to support LD 958 because no one should ever have their land taken without consultation or agreement. This country was built upon an unfortunate history of land being taken from indigenous people's across the continent and we should learn from that.

This bill would foster respect and fairness in how the state treats the Wabanaki Nations' sovereignty and would be a solid step forward in affording the Wabanaki Nations the rights that most other indigenous tribes have in the rest of the country.

Federal law prevents state-level eminent domain, in the cases of most tribes. However, the 1980 Settlement Acts unfairly exclude the Wabanaki Nations from these protections.

This bill would help to ensure that Wabanaki folks have a voice in the process and would encourage collaboration rather than costly and inefficient conflict.

I urge you to support LD 958.