

I strongly support LD 958 An Act to Prohibit Eminent Domain on Tribal Lands. This bill is important for removing language from other bills that fail to recognize that Wabanaki Nations are sovereign nations with the inherent rights to govern their land, just as other federally recognized tribes.

The state of Maine and its homeowners have already taken far too much land from the Wabanaki Nations. The history of running a state road through tribal land without consultation is appalling. It is far past time for this practice to stop, especially in the form of the state's eminent domain.

Maine's planning should recognize that the land of the Wabanaki Nations is not ours to take. The state needs to work around Wabanaki land rather than plan roads and other state buildings on their land.

If the land is truly needed to serve a larger public interest, Maine can collaborate with the Wabanaki Nations as an equal partner to develop a suitable resolution.

Caron Chess, Peaks Island