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Testimony in Support of LD 958, An Act to Prohibit Eminent Domain on Tribal Lands  
For Judiciary Committee Hearing on 4/4/2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of LD 958, An Act to Prohibit Eminent Domain on Tribal Lands. I speak as an ally to Wabanaki Nations and chair of the Wabanaki Ally Team at First Parish in Portland, Unitarian Universalist.

I wholeheartedly support this bill and thank House Minority Leader Faulkingham for introducing it. Sovereignty for Wabanaki Nations to have control over their land is a bipartisan issue and should be supported across the aisle.

As a result of the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act and Maine Implementing Act, the Wabanaki Nations in Maine are disadvantaged in many ways compared to other federally recognized tribes. This includes that they are subject to eminent domain by the State of Maine to have their land taken without consultation for projects the State considers in the public interest. The passage of LD 958 would acknowledge that Wabanaki are sovereign nations with control over their ancestral lands. It would be one step towards amending MICSA / MIA to restore this innate sovereignty.

I urge the committee to vote OTP on LD 958.

Thank you.