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Dear Judiciary Committee Members,

I am writing to you to express my strong support for LD 958, *An Act to Prohibit Eminent Domain on Tribal Lands*. This bill will amend the 1980 Act to Implement the Maine Indian Claims Settlement and the 2023 Mi'kmaq Nation Restoration Act, and will prevent the State of Maine from seizing Wabanaki Nations' land for state purposes. This Act acknowledges tribal sovereignty over tribal land- a basic legal principle which is already established for almost all federally recognized tribes. It would resolve the disrespect and lack of fairness inherent in the 1980 Settlement and the 2023 Restoration Acts, and recognize the Wabanaki Nations' fundamental right as Indigenous Nations to regulate their own territory.

Both historically and in the current time, Wabanaki Nations have protected the land that is now also called the State of Maine. This bill acknowledges that sacred relationship and would ensure that no action by the State could occur without consultation to determine the true public benefit of any project proposed by the State, and ensure that the State would work with tribal leadership to avoid potential harms. This legislation should be seen as a positive and protective measure, ensuring that those who know and have taken care of the land for millenia lead in decision making. It also ensures a basic principle of environmental justice: that communities have decision making power over what happens in their territory. Unfortunately, Wabanaki Nations have experienced the opposite for the past 400 years, and there are numerous examples of harm that have occurred- not only to Wabanaki communities but to all Maine residents- as a result of unilateral decision making, application of eminent domain, and lack of consultation with those whose land was being impacted.

In conclusion, LD958 is beneficial and should be legislated for two reasons: it acknowledges the basic right of sovereign nations to control what happens on their land, a right which is already recognized for other federally recognized tribes. Treating Wabanaki Nations differently than other Indigenous Nations is unfair. Secondly, LD958 will provide significant benefit in terms of protecting land where public projects are proposed from poorly informed and hasty application of eminent domain, requiring the State to work with Tribal leadership to request support for any proposed project that

impacts tribal land. The careful consideration of both benefits and harms that would result from this process would ensure that no projects move forward unless they are clearly beneficial to Wabanaki people. This consultation and decision-making process would protect land and water from unnecessary disruption, and benefit all people and other living things residing here. I urge the Committee to vote favorably for LD598.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Daisy Goodman', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Daisy Goodman
Old Town, Maine