



Good afternoon Senator Carney and Representative Kuhn and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Anghy Tehuitzil, and I am a resident of Augusta, Maine and I work as the Base Building Coordinator at Maine Youth Power, a youth-led youth movement building power to win human dignity, equity, access and a livable future across rural and suburban Maine. I am here today on behalf of my organization to ask that you support LD 958 An Act to Prohibit Eminent Domain on Tribal Lands.

Maine Youth Power stands in strong support of this effort and also wants to acknowledge the Wabanaki Alliance who has done an incredible job of engaging organizations, youth, communities, and state legislators in the fight for the right of Wabanaki Nations to sovereignly govern their territories.

Reclaiming their land back is the start of restoration for these tribes and the start of shifting power back into the hands of the Wabanaki people. LD958 will ensure that Maine will no longer seize their land. This bill would amend both the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementation Act and the Mi'kmaq Nation Restoration Act, to prevent future injustices from being inflicted upon Wabanaki communities—communities whose lands were taken without their consent.

Many of the youth in our movement are at the forefront of advocating for climate justice and political action, recognizing both the disproportionate impacts on Wabanaki communities and the urgent need to protect their ancestral lands and resources. Building a livable future for all of us means we must all stand to dismantle systems of oppression that have resulted in unfair measures such as taking tribal land away. I urge you to support LD 958, and step towards the justice that Wabakin nations should be given

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Anghy Tehuitzil

