

Barbara and Terry Baker
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LD 958

Testimony In Support of LD 958
“An Act to Prohibit Eminent Domain on Maine Tribal Lands”
Before the Committee on Judiciary
April 4, 2025

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

We are testifying today to express strong support for LD 958 and to thank Representative Faulkingham for introducing this bill.

The fact that their domain is protected brings stability to communities and promotes investment.

LD 958 – An Act to Prohibit Eminent Domain on Tribal Lands - will go a long way to restore fairness and respect to Wabanaki Nations’ sovereignty over their lands. No one should have their land taken without consultation or agreement. This is a protection already afforded to almost all other federally recognized tribes and Maine has an opportunity now to honor our ancestral peoples and lands with similar protections.

It is our belief that LD 958 restores a fundamental principle that the Wabanaki Nations are sovereign governments with inherent power to regulate their territories. We stand in solidarity with the peoples of and the tribal leadership governing the Penobscot Nation territory, Passamaquoddy Indian territory, the Houlton Band Trust Land, and the Mi'kmaq Nation Trust Land.

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.

We urge the committee to vote OTP on LD 958.

Thank you,
Barb and Terry Baker, Bradley, ME