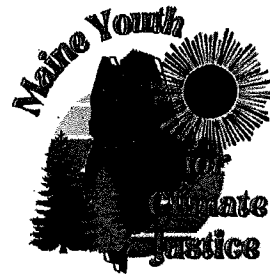


To: Committee on Judiciary, Maine State Legislature  
From: Jackson Chadwick, Maine Youth for Climate Justice  
Date: Friday, April 4, 2025



RE: Testimony in Support of L.D. 958: "An Act to Prohibit Eminent Domain on Tribal Lands"

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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Jackson Chadwick, and I am the Advocacy Director for Maine Youth for Climate Justice (MYCJ). We are a statewide organization advocating for an equitable transition from fossil fuels toward a more sustainable future where youth can live, work, and thrive in Maine. We also help youth cultivate leadership skills by hosting educational programs connecting them with the Maine State House.

I am testifying today on behalf of MYCJ's 500 members to ask you to support L.D. 958: "An Act to Prohibit Eminent Domain on Tribal Lands."

Climate justice is an intersectional movement that addresses systemic inequalities in our society. We recognize that the Wabanaki Nations have faced injustices due to colonialism and laws such as the 1980 Settlement Acts. We cannot achieve a just or fair society if the Wabanaki Nations do not have one.

Imagine the State of Maine using eminent domain to seize the very land your home sits upon. Frustration and outrage would be natural reactions. Yet, this is precisely the experience of the Wabanaki Nations, including the Passamaquoddy Reservation at Sipayik. L.D. 958 aims to address this injustice, prioritizing fairness and respect, and ensuring tribal voices are heard.

This Committee knows that the Wabanaki Nations have been treated differently and unfairly for many years<sup>1</sup>, even well before the Settlement Acts were implemented. Now is the opportunity to advance Wabanaki sovereignty and prevent future injustices.

Maine Youth for Climate Justice respectfully asks you to support L.D. 958.

Thank you for considering our organization's testimony,

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<sup>1</sup> Wabanaki Alliance, "Understanding Tribal Sovereignty." <https://www.wabanakialliance.com/sovereignty/>