

Athena Bryce
The Greater Bangor Area Branch NAACP
The Greater Area Bangor
LD 958

Testimony in support of LD958, An Act to Prohibit Eminent Domain on Tribal Lands, April 4, 2025

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kulm and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Athena Bryce, President of the Greater Bangor Area Branch NAACP.

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Greater Bangor Area Branch NAACP in strong support of LD 958: Prohibit Eminent Domain on Wabanaki Land. The Greater Bangor Area Branch NAACP fully supports Wabanaki sovereignty and this bill, which restores fairness and respects Wabanaki Nations' sovereignty over their own lands.

History shows the harm of eminent domain on Wabanaki lands. In 1925, Maine Route 190, which runs through the Passamaquoddy Reservation at Sipayik, was taken by eminent domain without tribal consultation. LD 958 would ensure that similar actions do not occur again without consulting the tribe.

The Wabanaki Nations should not be treated differently from other federally recognized tribes. This bill ensures fairness, respects sovereignty, and prevents future injustices - all values central to the NAACP's mission and our role in upholding justice.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote in favor of LD 958.

Sincerely,

Athena Bryce, President
The Greater Bangor Area Branch NAACP