

Susan Howe  
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LD 958

Thank you for reading my testimony.

It is time for overdue justice.

LD 958 restores the fundamental principle that the Wabanaki Nations are sovereign governments with inherent power to regulate their territories.

Federal law protects most tribal nations from state-level eminent domain, but the 1980 Settlement Acts have resulted in the Wabanaki Nations in Maine being unfairly excluded from these federal protections. The Wabanaki Nations should not be treated differently from other federally recognized tribes.

History shows the harm of eminent domain on Wabanaki lands. In fact 500 years of history shows our constant TAKING from Wabanaki people, which has amounted to genocide by the UN definition. It is time to STOP.

This bill encourages collaboration, not conflict. It ensures the tribes have a voice. It ensures fairness, respects sovereignty, and prevents future injustices.

LD 958 restores fairness and respects Wabanaki Nations' sovereignty over their lands. No one should have their land taken without consultation or agreement. LD 958 removes the state of Maine's power to take Wabanaki Nations' tribal land through eminent domain, a protection already afforded to almost all other federally recognized tribes.

Please support this bill, without question.