

Peter Morgan  
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LD 958

LD 958 - An Act to Prohibit Eminent Domain on Tribal Lands

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, Members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Peter Morgan, I live in Raymond, Maine and I have been very concerned about modifying the Nation Restoration Act which prevents the state from seizing Wabanaki Nations' land for public uses ( protection already afforded to almost all other federally recognized tribes ). The 1980 Settlement Acts have resulted in the Wabanaki Nations in Maine being unfairly excluded from these federal protections. This bill 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 tribe.

History shows the harm of eminent domain on Wabanaki lands. Maine Route 190, which cuts through the heart of the Passamaquoddy Reservation at Sipayik, was taken by eminent domain in 1925—a decision made without tribal input. LD 958 would ensure that no such action happens again without tribal consultation.

The Wabanaki Nations should not be treated differently from other federally recognized tribes. This bill ensures fairness, respects sovereignty, and prevents future injustices. LD 958 restores the fundamental principle that the Wabanaki Nations are sovereign governments with inherent power to regulate their territories.

I encourage members of the Committee to vote "OUGHT TO PASS" this legislation.