

Kate Somerville
Portland
LD 958

My name is Kate Somerville and I am a resident of the place known as Maine, which is unceded Wabanaki territory. I am in agreement with the views expressed by the Wabanaki Alliance, which state that this bills restores fairness and respect for the sovereignty of the Wabanaki people over their lands. It is unfortunate that this even needs to be written into law, since it would seem to be that it is always wrong to take land that is not yours, and yet here we are, needing to pass this resolution just to be sure it doesn't happen again to the Wabanaki. Diplomacy should be the way, working together with tribal leaders to determine whether some land may be offered for federal use. It is not the domain of the federal government to claim land whenever they deem it appropriate. The US government doesn't have a good track record for treating tribal nations with respect in these cases, however, and it is my belief that they could very well continue to act inappropriately without this resolution. Thank you.