Testimony of Anne Gauthier, Public Affairs Manager
Texas Instruments, South Portland, Maine
In support of LD 464

Senator Langley, Representative Kornfield, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, my name is Anne Gauthier and I am the Public Affairs manager for Texas Instruments (TI) in South Portland. I have worked in semiconductor manufacturing for over 30 years and I am here today in support of LD 464, An Act to Improve Science and Engineering Education for Maine's Students.

TI's South Portland factory makes semiconductors for electronic devices that provide data for real world applications. Our semiconductors read temperature, determine pressure, record speed, control humidity, adjust sound and brighten screens – everything that makes your electronics useful to you. Our components are in cars, smart phones, industrial equipment, medical devices, and energy efficiency devices. Our plant has been operating since 1997 and employs over 500 people. TI ships over 2B chips a year from Maine.

Science and engineering professionals are essential to our ability to innovate, grow and succeed. Lagging student interest and achievement in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) threatens the talent pipeline in the U.S. and hinders future innovation. TI strongly supports efforts to foster STEM education and school improvement, particularly in communities where we have a presence. We encourage high standards and accountability designed to improve student achievement in K-12 education, including the voluntary, state-led, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

An international benchmarking study of ten countries' science standards – selected based on their strong performance on international assessments or their special interest to the United States was undertaken for the purpose of informing the development of the NGSS, which are based on a framework developed by the National Academy of Sciences (a non-governmental organization) composed of the nation's leading scientists.

Businesses want consistency in knowledge and skills from high school graduates. This is at the heart of Maine's proficiency-based graduation diploma legislation, which in turn relies on a common set of standards describing what students should know and be able to do. Between 2012-2022, projected growth in STEM occupations in Maine is expected to be 8.8% while only 1.8% in non-STEM occupations. To get kids into STEM majors and jobs, we must have 21st-century science and engineering standards.

TI sets high standards for itself and needs future generations of engineers and technicians to have a solid understanding of science and math at the end of their K -12 education. TI has strong partnerships with the University Maine and the University of Southern Maine engineering departments. We also support a Cumberland County Engineer Ambassador program run by the Maine Math and Science Alliance as well as after school STEM programming taught by Learning Works in Portland for elementary school students. We want all students to have a multitude of career choices after graduation and it is the students with a strong foundation in STEM who have the widest range of opportunities for their future.

Please support adoption of NGSS for all Maine students. Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you.

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Texas Instruments Incorporated (TI) is a global semiconductor design and manufacturing company that develops analog ICs and embedded processors. By employing the world's brightest minds, TI creates innovations that shape the future of technology. TI is helping more than 100,000 customers transform the future, today. Learn more at www.ti.com.