

April 4, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

The Maine State Aquarium, located in West Boothbay Harbor, Maine, is an incredible learning opportunity for all who have been lucky enough to walk through its doors. Having been involved with the aquarium for over 13 years now, whether through class field trips, teacher courses, or working as a volunteer, I am writing this letter in support of this wonderful educational gem and am eagerly anticipating the re-opening of this well-loved local spot highlighting all the best the Gulf of Maine has to offer.

The community has truly been at a loss these last couple summers as the Maine State Aquarium has not been open due to Covid. Children and their families come from all over the state to visit the aquarium, hear and participate in the educational programming such as shark talks, lobstering demonstrations, squid dissections and observing and gently handling the Gulf of Maine critters in the large, shallow touch tank (the favorite part of most visitors!). Having volunteered many summers off and on, I have seen the true delight on visitors' faces after experiencing the indoor displays and the many outdoor activities at the Discovery Center and down at the docks.

Teachers from all over the State of Maine utilize the Maine State Aquarium to further their students' knowledge of this amazing coastline, and what our Gulf of Maine has to offer. Many families, local and tourist, have made it part of their summer tradition for years and years. Local colleges also share in the educational experience as well, as students will work at summer internships supporting the aquarium and its thousands of visitors, while broadening their own learning at the same time. In an age where technology has literally taken over, it is essential that this aquarium receive the necessary repairs and improvements so it can continue with its one of a kind, hands-on programming benefitting people of all ages. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely yours,

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