



May 9, 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in support of the Act to Support Outdoor Education by Establishing the Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program. I have worked with Maine youth in a wide variety of outdoor and experiential learning settings, from sea kayak expeditions along the Maine Coast to science explorations in the backyard of a middle school. In all of these settings, I have seen students more engaged in their learning, more connected to their peers, and more curious about the world around them. My observations are supported by a wealth of academic research which demonstrates the positive impacts of experiential learning on students' academic, social-emotional, and behavioral development.

Unfortunately, immersive outdoor learning opportunities are not accessible to all students because of financial constraints and transportation logistics. It is challenging for families to afford to send their children to these programs. Similarly, school district budgets are often stretched thin so these experiences are only an option with extensive community fundraising.

I hope you will consider supporting this unique opportunity to provide greater access to meaningful learning experiences for youth in Maine. I believe students, teachers, and families across the state will benefit from this initiative. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Sarah Kearsley

Experiential STEM Teacher, [Roberts Farm Experiential Learning](#)

Oxford Hills School District