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As garden educators in a public school system, we firmly believe that LD 550 will benefit the future of Maine students by providing opportunities for their future, practical life skills, and engagement within our economy.

According to a survey done by Maine School Garden Network in 2023\* there were only 73 out of 597 public schools that have registered as having school gardens. There is a great need to provide all public schools with the ability to develop a more self sustaining food system.

In doing so, school gardens have the ability to supplementally feed our nutrition programs and create a direct pipeline to families and community members that would otherwise be unable to access fresh, healthy food.

By supporting agricultural-based education, students become more integrated into their own communities, and gain a sense of confidence in themselves and their abilities.

Please consider supporting this important bill for our children and our future.

Thank you,



Maggie Blumenthal

3/13/25



Makaila Bailey

3/13/25

\*<https://msgn.org/wp-content/uploads/MSGN-Network-Survey-2023-Web.pptx>