

## Stephanie Beaulieu

207 551 5835   [fieldsrealtyllc@gmail.com](mailto:fieldsrealtyllc@gmail.com)   72 Fort Hill St, Fort Fairfield ME 04742

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Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and Esteemed Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

I writing in support of LD 361, "An Act to Support the Francis Malcom Science Center."

I would like to voice my strong support of the proposed bill to allocate \$200,000 in state funding to the Francis Malcolm Science Center in Easton, Maine, which would assist in hiring two part time educators among other things. This funding is critical to ensuring that the Science Center continues to serve as a valuable educational resource for the community.

For decades, the Francis Malcolm Science Center has been a beacon of hands-on learning, offering unique opportunities for students, families, and educators to engage with science in a way that traditional classrooms simply cannot provide. With its 140+ acre forest, trail system, outdoor classroom, observatory, and planetarium, the Center fosters curiosity and innovation, inspiring the next generation of scientists, environmentalists, and critical thinkers.

The need for dedicated educators at the Center is more important than ever. By supporting this bill, the state will help expand public programs, school partnerships, and interactive science experiences that enrich Aroostook County's educational landscape. With two additional educators, the Center can reach more students, provide enhanced programming, and continue its mission of bringing science to life—from Earth to the Universe.

I urge you to support this funding initiative and invest in the future of County students, educators, and our scientific community. As a realtor, I can attest that this rich resource is one that folks moving here are always interested in and value. Please help us keep it going!

Sincerely yours,



Stephanie Beaulieu