

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 1
ZIPPEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
42 GRIFFIN STREET • PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE 04769
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March 24, 2025

Members, Educational and Cultural Affairs Committee
Maine State Legislature
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: LD 361 — An Act to Support the Francis Malcolm Science Center

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of Zippel Elementary School in Presque Isle, I am writing to express support for LD 361, An Act to Support the Francis Malcolm Science Center (FMSC). For many years, our third through fifth graders have participated annually in the Center's themed units, presentations, and hands-on learning experiences. These visits consistently spark curiosity, deepen scientific understanding, and foster a lifelong love of learning in our students.

The Francis Malcolm Science Center is a true gem in northern Maine - staffed by dedicated volunteers who generously give their time and expertise. Their creative, inquiry-based programming transforms abstract science concepts into engaging, tangible explorations.

Zippel teachers share this enthusiasm:

"Our students leave the Science Center buzzing with excitement — it's the highlight of our science curriculum every year."

"The Center's hands-on approach turns complex topics into real-world adventures; I've never seen my class so engaged."

"FMSC's lessons align perfectly with our standards and inspire students to think critically and creatively."

I respectfully urge you to approve LD 361. Continued funding for the Francis Malcolm Science Center will ensure that hundreds of Aroostook County students each year benefit from this outstanding community resource - one that exemplifies hands-on, equity-driven STEM education.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Christopher J. Hallett
Principal
Zippel Elementary School