

# FORT FAIRFIELD

- A PASSION FOR COMMUNITY -

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Town of Fort Fairfield  
18 Community Center Dr.  
Fort Fairfield, ME 04742

March 24, 2025

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

I am writing you today to express my support for LD 361, "An Act to Support the Francis Malcom Science Center." I have been involved with the Francis Malcolm Science Center for many years and know the importance of this place of learning and exploration to our communities, our youth, and our life-long learners interested in the world around us.

As a former Board Member, I know firsthand the dedication the team of volunteers have shown in keeping the center's doors open and the many challenges they have faced since COVID forced it to close for nearly two years. Since then, these volunteers have rebuilt the center's educational offerings and have attracted school groups, community organizations, non-profits, and visitors young and old, to experience its planetarium, hands-on classrooms, and its network of trails.

As a parent of two school-aged children, I can attest to the center's excellent ability to connect with our students, their expert delivery of information in keeping with its mission, often tailored for the groups visiting to ensure the program fits within that particular school's curriculum, and how engaged my kids are in learning when they get a chance to experience space, and the space around us, when they get a fieldtrip to this wonderful facility.

As a Town Manager in the neighboring community, I can tell you that unique attractions like the Science Center, its planetarium, the research being done using our dark skies with the telescopes and other instrumentation housed on site, and the recreational opportunities for snowshoeing, hiking and nature watching are important pieces of our community's fabric and help make our communities attractive to live and work in.

At a time when schools struggle to engage our youth, it is imperative that we support institutions like this that give our children a chance to experience the wonder in science that is all around us, and to inspire kids to dream big. Who knows if there is another astronaut like Jessica Muir that will visit this week? How many engineers, biologists and scientists have found their passion for science after stepping foot in the Science Center? We need to support places like this that provide opportunities for our kids to learn and grow outside of the classroom and find their inspiration.

Thank you for your support of this critical funding. Please feel free to contact me at [townmanager@fortfairfield.org](mailto:townmanager@fortfairfield.org) or (207)472-3800 for any additional information.

Sincerely,

Timothy R Goff  
Town Manager  
(207) 472-3800