

# MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 1

Castle Hill - Chapman - Mapleton - Presque Isle - Westfield

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March 26, 2025

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

My name is Ben Greenlaw and I am the superintendent of schools of Maine School Administrative District #1 (MSAD 1) which includes the City of Presque Isle along with four other towns located in Central Aroostook County. I am writing urging you to vote "Ought to Pass" for a bill that is important to the students and staff of Central Aroostook County, LD 361, "An Act to Support the Francis Malcolm Science Center".

The Francis Malcolm Science Center serves a huge benefit to the students and teachers in our region. The Francis Malcolm Science Center hosts approximately 2,500 visitors annually and provides hands-on, experiential learning opportunities in the field of science thanks to a small team of dedicated educators who volunteer their time in order to share their knowledge and experiences with students. The Francis Malcolm Science Center has a mission to provide a unique environment for learning adventures in life and environmental science including outdoor education and astronomy. The Francis Malcolm Science Center has provided these educational opportunities to students in our region free of charge to our students as well as students of surrounding communities. The educational leaders who volunteer their time are also available to area teachers to customize the educational experiences at the Francis Malcolm Science Center to provide activities for students that directly correlate with what students are learning about in their school classrooms.

Students and Teachers in Central Aroostook County benefit tremendously from the learning experiences provided to them at the Francis Malcolm Science Center. Living in a geographically isolated part of our state makes field trips a logistical challenge for our schools. The Francis Malcolm Science Center provides an affordable and valuable learning opportunity for science to come alive for our students that doesn't require them to be on a bus for multiple hours each way. I am hopeful that the financial support provided by LD 361 will keep the Francis Malcolm Science Center a viable and vibrant place for students to learn science for years to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for LD 361.

Sincerely,



Ben Greenlaw  
Superintendent

