



The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
Testimony from Nathan Strout, P.E, Senior Geotechnical Engineer, S.W. Cole Engineering, Inc.

In Support Of

L.D. 281

An Act to Provide Support for Certain Maine Discovery Museum Science, Technology,
Engineering, and Mathematics Educational Programming Throughout the State
10 April 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Nathan Strout, P.E, a Senior Geotechnical Engineer at S.W. Cole Engineering, Inc. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of L.D. 281, An Act to Provide Support for Certain Maine Discovery Museum Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Educational Programming Throughout the State.

In my opinion, funding for STEM related programs is important for our state. At my firm, we struggle to find entry level engineers, particularly in Maine, as we have had much more success in other offices throughout New England. Whether students follow an engineering career or not, the critical thinking required with STEM related topics only helps advance our children with problem-solving techniques. State funding to support initiatives such as L.D. 281 is important to help educate the children in our State. As a father of an eight-year-old, I can see the value that STEM related activities have provided. The passing of L.D. 281 will help to open the minds of the youth from our State and hopefully interest some to pursue engineering related fields. S.W. Cole has supported Maine Discovery Museum's Maine Science Festival over the last few years because we understand the importance of their efforts. As a constituent and licensed engineer in our State, I am writing to support L.D. 281.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Strout', written in a cursive style.

Nathan Strout, P.E.