

Douglas Reusch  
Farmington  
LD 1219

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and other members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,

My name is Doug Reusch and I work at the University of Maine at Farmington as a Professor of Geology and reside in Farmington as well. I am writing to testify in support of LD 1219, An Act to Increase State Funding for the Campuses of the University of Maine System.

A decade ago, a faculty survey at UMF concluded that what we value most is experiential education. Recent events have confirmed this conclusion. Experiential education is an outgrowth of the scientific paradigm that Galileo brought into prominence and that has subsequently dominated the evolution of modern civilization. I wish you could witness our students in the field and in the classroom where they are thoroughly engaged. You would see immediately that it would be a crime to erode the funding that enables our current students to develop into mature citizens and contributing members of society. I can't think of a better investment of tax dollars.