

Akouvi Komedja
Orono
LD 1543

To: Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
From: Akouvi Komedja, 100 Main St, Apt 1, Orono, ME, 04473.
Date:

RE: Testimony in support of L.D. 1543 "An Act to Establish the Green Schools Network"

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,
My name is Akouvi Komedja. I am a student at Orono High School and I live in Orono.

I am testifying in support of L.D. 1543, "An Act to Establish the Green Schools Network" because I believe that a Green Schools network would fundamentally change Maine's school systems in a positive way.

My childhood has been shaped by a deep connection to Maine's natural environment. Growing up surrounded by our state's diverse ecosystems, I've witnessed firsthand how climate change is affecting our communities. As a student who will inherit these challenges, I believe schools must play a central role in environmental education and sustainability practices.

Throughout my high school career, I have invested a lot of time in organizing climate strikes, leading the Environmental Club, and initiating a composting program. However, these efforts are often limited by a lack of resources and limited support. The Green Schools Network would address these gaps by creating a structured approach to environmental education and sustainable practices across Maine schools. This legislation would benefit students like me by providing hands-on learning opportunities in sustainability, preparing us for green economy careers, and empowering us to become environmental leaders. The network would ensure that sustainability isn't just taught in classrooms but practiced throughout our school operations - from energy usage to waste management.

More importantly, change is driven by youth. Maine's youth is strong and relentless. Establishing a Green Schools Network would empower us to fight against climate change and systems that promote it. A Green Schools Network would ensure that Maine's youth is equipped with the right tools and resources to have a strong and developed climate education that will drive future change.

For these reasons, I respectfully encourage you to support L.D. 1543. Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,
Akouvi Komedja