

To: Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
From: Anna Lupien, 90 Stagecoach Rd, Waldoboro, 04572, MYCJ Member
Date: 04/25/25

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

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

My name is Anna Lupien and I am a senior in highschool, living in Waldoboro. I am a member of Maine Youth For Climate Justice, a statewide organization of youth and young adults advocating for a sustainable future and for a just transition from fossil fuels to clean energy.

I urge you to pass L.D. 1543 “An Act to Establish the Green Schools Network” because I believe that youth in Maine deserve a comprehensive education. As someone fortunate enough to have attended schools prioritizing an outdoor education, I know the transformative power of connecting youth with the world around them. I have seen learning happen through the raising of caterpillars, through study of Wabanaki arts, and through analysis of plant species. I have seen students take these experiences and connect them with learning in the classroom. The passing of this bill would allow students across the state an open opportunity to engage in such curriculum.

Maine does not currently have a green schools network, meaning that there may be barriers for schools pursuing climate focused or outdoor education. This network would act as a tremendous resource for teachers looking to take learning beyond the classroom. It would ensure that students have access to real world learning, fostering strong leadership and analytical skills.

Finally, Maine’s future green economy depends on the education of students in Maine today. For careers in forestry, science, lobstering, or renewable energy, instilling an understanding of the natural world is essential. Maine’s climate action plan *Maine Won’t Wait* prioritizes climate education to advance our state climate goals. The Maine Green Schools network will ensure that this is feasible.

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

Sincerely,

Anna Lupien