

Phoebe Monteith  
Lovell, Maine  
LD 1817

I urge you to fully support LD 1817 - An Act to Support Outdoor Education by Establishing the Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program. I've experienced first hand - as an educator, and as a parent - the myriad benefits of outdoor education. I worked as an instructor in the Appalachian Mountain Club's Mountain Classroom and witnessed middle school students from cities exploring forests and gazing at stars for the very first time. My children have attended summer programs at Bryant Pond Camp and my eldest has had the unique opportunity to be in the Maine Environmental Science Academy (MESA) program at Molly Ockett School in Fryeburg, where two days a week they embark on outdoor field trips with the Greater Lovell Land Trust and Tin Mountain Conservation Center. They learn so much more during these experiential programs than they ever do in an indoor classroom. With LD 1817, these types of programs would be available to all children in Maine! Thank you.