

To the Honorable Members of Maine's Education and Cultural Affairs Committee

My name is David King. I am a resident of Limestone and a member of the Board of Trustees of The Maine School of Science and Mathematics. I am writing today to ask for your support for LD 1458 – An Act to Increase Funding for The Maine School of Science and Mathematics.

I have enjoyed a long and wonderful relationship with The Maine School of Science and Mathematics (MSSM). My initial introduction was through my ability to provide assistance in the construction of MSSM's Dormitory. My wife and I later served as "host parents" for several students. Here I am today, a diehard supporter and a proud member of the Board of Trustees.

As a member of the Board's Finance and Facilities Committee, I have witnessed firsthand the harm suffered by the school through insufficient funding. Flat funding since 2017 has necessitated constant reductions, to include the elimination of some positions, in order to continue to operate. Yet throughout this absence of sufficient funding, there was a fierce determination by staff to continue to provide the same high quality education for which MSSM is known. That same high quality education resulted in MSSM being recognized as the 2nd best high school in the country in 2019. The students, during these austere times, have been (and continue to be) invaluable partners in their education. I think we can all agree that these students are truly the future of our great State and its communities. As such, they deserve their high school education to be appropriately funded. In order for this to happen, I (we) need your help. Your support of LD 1458 would be the beginning of a long term solution.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support of LD 1458.

David W. King

Limestone, Maine

