

The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
Testimony from DONNA OXLEY, CPA, BBSC, CPAs and
MAINE DISCOVERY MUSEUM BOARD MEMBER

In Support Of

L.D. 871

An Act to Provide Support for the Maine Discovery Museum's Informal Science, Technology,
Engineering and Mathematics Education Programs Throughout the State

20 April 2023

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is DONNA OXLEY, CPA at BBSC, CPAs, Brewer, Maine 04412. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of L.D. 871, An Act to Provide Support for Maine Discovery Museum's Informal Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education Throughout the State.

General background:

I have served on the Maine Discovery Museum's Finance Committee and Board of Directors since 2002, and 2004, respectively. This Museum helps people of all ages to discover the world around them through creative exploration and science. I have seen firsthand how critical the museum has been to dedicating programming to science, technology, innovation, and engineering within our community and state. In addition to the programming at the museum and outreach within our Maine schools, the annual Maine Science Festival attracts thousands of attendees statewide and showcases national and world-leading science topics to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. Knowledge of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) plays an important role in developing and keeping informed citizens within our state. By increasing an understanding in these areas, we can only hope this introduction will keep the next generation living and working in our beautiful state. Furthermore, careers in STEM-related fields are some of the highest wage, highest growth areas in Maine. The continuation of offering two statewide programs at no charge to participants and sustainability for the programs can only be possible by receiving financial support from the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

Donna Oxley, CPA
Maine Discovery Museum Board Member