Stephanie Cesario Ellsworth LD 1642

As a member of a committee designing Maine's census on environmental learning, I would like to share enthusiastic support for LD 1642. According to our 2023 census results from hundreds of Maine educators, Wabanaki studies is the #1 community-based environmental learning topic Maine educators say they need more support and resources for. I have worked for 5 years supporting Maine public school districts' outdoor & garden learning programs and have seen many schools outside PPS flounder without resources (\$), training, and support to actually implement the robust Wabanaki Studies toolkit. The materials exist, but they are not being implemented in more rural areas of the state. We need to pass LD 1642 in order to help other schools implement & adapt the Wab studies curriculum. We have made it so far in this work and are ready to actually implement it in less-resourced districts!