

Corrie Hunkler  
Coastal Washington County  
LD 2131

“Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

My name is Corrie Hunkler, from CHERRYFIELD (WASHINGTON COUNTY) and I am writing in support of L.D. 2131, An Act to Support Extended Learning Opportunities.”

Our small rural Maine schools with limited budgets and resources are struggling to meet the educational needs of our students. Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs) allow us to use our strengths (small numbers, close knit communities, and connection to place) to create meaningful educational pathways for our students that are tailored to interests and are based in community. It is my belief that in order for small schools to survive and thrive we need to create strong partnerships with community, use our unique strengths and meet students where they are at. Extended Learning Opportunities are the way to do this and support our small communities and schools. Thank you.