

Kate Barteaux
Wells
LD 2182

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Kate Barteaux , I am a resident of Wells and I am an educator of middle school science at York Middle School. My experience includes a Bachelors of Science in Ecology and Environmental Science from the University of Maine and a Masters of Teaching and Learning from the University of Southern Maine. I have taught both informal environmental education at the Wells Reserve at Laudolm and public education at York Middle School for 16 years.

I am testifying today (February 8, 2024) in agreement with and to emphasize the Maine Science Teachers Association's position on LD 2182, Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 132: Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education. I agree that we can accept the “students will” component of the revision, we oppose the “Further explanation” additions and the addition of “Science as a Human Endeavor” as it’s written. Specifically to add content with no identification of the desired learning outcomes or professional training to introduce these topics successfully does not ensure the outcome of strong science education. Such topics deserve to be presented and discussed with strong historical knowledge and to force these topics into an already full, challenging set of science standards, seems unnecessary and detrimental to promote quality teaching of these important topics.