

Gabriel Hrynick  
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LD 2118

My name is Gabriel Hrynick and I am a 2006 alumnus of the Maine School of Science and Mathematics. I am testifying in favor of LD2118.

I am from Maine's unorganized territories and recognize the crucial role MSSM serves as an educational option for some of Maine's students. MSSM launched me on a career as an academic that I think it is unlikely I would have been able to pursue—or even been aware existed—had I not attended. Now a faculty member in the Department of Anthropology at the University of New Brunswick, I frequently think about the preparation for university and life that MSSM provided me with gratitude, and I try to emulate the rigorous expectations, passion, and compassion of the teachers I had at MSSM.

I also feel fortunate that although I work for an institution in Canada, the majority of my research is on the archaeology of Maine. Doing that work, I spend much of each summer in rural communities in Maine. I hope that students in those communities will have the same opportunity for academic exploration that I did. I think that students in those communities are passionately committed to contributing to the future of the state of Maine and that, for some of them, MSSM offers a step toward realizing how they may best do so.

Thank you for reading my testimony.

Gabriel Hrynick, PhD