

Jeffrey Porter
MSAD 51
LD 1336

Dear Housing and Economic Development Committee members,

I am writing in support of LD 1336.

I am the Superintendent of Schools in MSAD 51 (Greely), a district that has enjoyed a relationship with Aomori, Japan, for more than 30 years in some form or another.

Prior to the pandemic, Greely Middle School and Aomori Jr. High School hosted dual student and staff exchanges in-person annually. Since the pandemic, our relationship has shifted to an arts exchange led by Lynda McCann-Olsen, president of Friends of Aomori and a member of the Governor's Council fostering continued relations with Aomori.

Maine's relationship with Japan furthers our state's broader emphasis on global connections that began with the advent of the Maine Learning Results in 1997. Helping our students look beyond our borders prepares them for a future that will inevitably rely heavily on global acuity.

Codifying this relationship would be of incredible benefit to the people of both Maine and Japan. Please support the future of this long-established relationship by voting for LD 1336.