Dear Maine Department of Education Science Standards Review Team,

My name is Olivia Griset and I am the President of the Board of Directors for the Maine Environmental Education Association (MEEA). I am a former Maine high school biology and environmental science teacher and now work with educators across the state who use Maine’s environment as a unifying context in their teaching. At MEEA we represent hundreds of environmental science educators and have the pleasure to see many award winning teachers across the state implementing best pedagogical practice with their students to effetely teach about ecology, ecosystem function and environmental issues-preparing Maine students increasing their science literacy and preparing them for environmental related careers. Maine is considered a national leader in environmental education and houses some of the best environment science educators in the country and many nationally award winning environmental educators. These educators are deeply impacting students and lead the field in innovation. In Maine we also have incredible students involved in programs such as Envirothon and students winning international science competitions like INTEL with their environment-based science projects. We are facing some of the most complex environmental issues of our time and Maine students should graduate with the knowledge and skills they need to actively engage in the modern green economy. In order for Maine's strength in environmental science to continue and grow it is incredibly important that Maine science educators have rigorous science standards that support systems thinking and inquiry. The current MLR’s are outdated and focus more on content mastery and less on inquiry, critical thinking, and systems thinking skills...these are the skills that will build 21st Century Science Literacy. As you know, the majority of districts in Maine have already adopted the NGSS. At MEEA we feel the NGSS are research-based and incorporate a systems-thinking approach. We recommend to the department that the new Maine state science standards adopt NGSS and/or strongly reflect the NGSS. Thank you so much for this opportunity to add input in this important process to build science literacy in Maine.

Thank you,

Olivia Griset

Maine Environmental Education Association

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