Hello,

I am writing to express my concern about the science standards in Maine. I am a middle school science teacher who has worked in the public school system for the past two years and has worked with public schools for a couple of years prior.

All of the schools I have worked with have completely adopted the Next Generation Science Standards. These are the standards that are used in classrooms and described on report cards in the schools I've worked with.

I have come to truly appreciate these standards the more I work with them. The standards are largely concept-based, providing guidance to both staff and students while leaving space for unit design and instruction up to the educators. Following the NGSS helps students connect to phenomena, which I have found increases student engagement, interest, and success in my classroom.

I have also found the Next Generation Science Standards to be relevant to problems facing the real world. Using the NGSS, I have found many opportunities to connect my curriculum to current environmental issues, related careers, and political discussions.

I am grateful for the opportunity to express my opinion on Maine's state science standards. I would strongly urge the full adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards for all schools in Maine.

Thanks for your consideration.
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