To whom it may concern;

I have been a science educator for 12 years now, all at Medomak Valley High School. I never think of myself as having been in education long enough to comment on standards, but as the standards have been the same since I started, I might as well give my two cents.

We were told many years ago to prepare for the change in standards to the Next Generation Science Standards, which we never adopted. We were then told to prepare for a proficiency-based diploma, and new standards that we seemed to invent, but were mostly based off the NGSS and called by the State "Sample Graduation Standards". We have been working with these standards for four years.

Most of the country seems to be aligning themselves to the NGSS, which are different than the MLRs. Textbooks come aligned to the NGSS, curriculum materials are aligned to the NGSS. Even the Sample Graduation Standards are aligned to the NGSS. It's time the State of Maine aligns to the NGSS.

The Next Generation Science Standards may not be the best for everything. There are some things that I disagree with on the standards and when they should be taught. However, they are a set of standards that everyone can get behind. Our students will be learning the same things that students in other states will be learning, and isn't that the point of standards? We were supposed to adopt them a couple years ago but didn't. It's time for that to change.

I'm not exactly sure what you are expecting in the comment period for the current standards, but these are my comments- adopt the NGSS already. Align our standards with others, with standards developed outside the Maine bubble, with standards that all of the curricula I have seen have aligned to. A new wheel has been presented to us, let's not reinvent ours.

Elizabeth Bianchi
Medomak Valley High School
Science Teacher
MLTI Lead Teacher