We, the science teachers at Casco Bay HS in Portland, ME, would like to make the case for NGSS to replace the current MLRs. There are numerous reasons to do so, here are some –

a. The NGSS come from a National Academy of Sciences study that produced the Framework for K-12 Science Education. This study had 18 members, 9 who are members of the National Academy of Sciences or National Academy of Engineering including a Nobel laurate in physics and one in chemistry, and 9 who are cognitive scientists, educational policy researchers, and science educators. Science and engineering concepts identified by these people is beyond reproach.

b. Maine was a lead state in development of the NGSS and had a team of over 20 educators who reviewed and provided input on numerous occasions as did hundreds of Maine science educators.

c. Most Maine districts, according to last year's MSTA survey you all participated in, have already adopted NGSS and we don’t want to go backwards. Districts have already invested in professional development and materials consistent with NGSS.

d. NGSS combine instruction into three dimensions of science and engineering practices, disciplinary core ideas and crosscutting concepts. The current MLRs, while having process and content, separate these into accountability standards and non-accountability standards.

e. NGSS focus on science and engineering –both vital for students in the 21st century. The MLRs mention engineering once.

Sincerely;

Brooke Teller, Stacey Woidt and Jenny Crowley