

## How to write a Letter to the Editor for LD 1902 Climate Education Bill

*Guide by the Nature Based Education Consortium, February 2022*

### What does this [bill](#) do?

- Helps Maine teachers meet standards and best serve their students
- Provides funding for professional development on the climate science standards that already exist in Maine, or on interdisciplinary climate education more broadly
- Schools can partner with a community organization to bring climate education professional development to educators
- \$3 million total to districts = \$1 million per year over 3 years

### Why is LD 1902 Important?

- Teachers need support now
- We are in a climate emergency
- Set Maine up for future federal funding
- Maine Won't Wait goals - [Climate Action Plan](#)
- Workforce development
- Bill to be voted on within a week or so by legislature
- Likely to pass legislature, but may not get \$\$
- Money is essential to the bill: Aiming for Department of Education to have an administrative position and grant money awarded by Appropriations Committee (\$3,000,000 total)

### Why a letter to the editor?

- **Seen:** by legislators and the wider community
- **Short:** (less than 250 words) and to the point

### What do you want to say?

- **Your Voice:** Speak from your perspective
- **Personal:** Your family, your community, a coworker, you!

### How will this bill make a difference?

- **Look:** at [NBEC website](#) & evaluate topic for needs
- **Explain:** focus on one point well
- Use **powerful language** (create links for citations)

### Include a fact!

- Climate education professional development was **#1** priority in [2019 survey of Community-Based Environmental Learning in Maine](#) in 2019
- There were **almost 100 pieces of Testimony** in support of this bill, from educators, students, youth, organizations, and community members. **50 pieces of testimony** were from students/teachers.
- **This is the only legislative action on climate education** considered this legislative session
- Since the proposal is to draw **\$3 million from the general fund**, there are no alternative education use for these dollars, and no other proposals on the table. These funds are not being drawn out of the existing education budget, but added to them. This is a priority that has been established by many educators and students across the state.
- In the Teach ME Outside ([teachmeoutside.org](http://teachmeoutside.org)) directory of environmental education and outdoor learning community partners, there are currently **32 programs listed that focus on professional development and climate education**, and every county in Maine is served by at least 13 of these programs.

### Call to action

- **Decide:** what action you want others to take, and say it
- **Memorable:** The end is something to remember

### Example:

- [Letter by youth published 2/11/22 PPH \(today!\)](#)
- Introduces idea all students deserve climate change understanding, & self as youth
- Opportunities of the bill
- Raises equity examples
- Ends with “luck” being reason for her knowledge
- **Other example:** [LTE by Olivia Griset of Maine Environmental Education Association in Times Record](#)

List of emails/how to submit LTE: <https://www.sierraclub.org/maine/write-lte>

For support, email [emily@nbeconsortium.com](mailto:emily@nbeconsortium.com) or [madison.climateaction@gmail.com](mailto:madison.climateaction@gmail.com)