



## BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL

116 MAQUOIT ROAD  
BRUNSWICK, MAINE 04011-7452  
OFFICE: 207 319-1910  
FAX: 207 798-5515

BRUCE J. COOK  
PRINCIPAL

DONNA M. BOROWICK  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

PETER D. GARDNER  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
June 16, 2010

### **RE: Cathance River Education Alliance Letter of Support**

To Whom This Concerns at CREA:

Thank you for your support of my Environmental Geoscience class over the past two school years, and for the outreach and opportunities you provided to my students. This past school year, thirty students undertook quarter-long research projects on the ecology of the Merrymeeting Bay area, including the Cathance River. Nearly 100 students over the past two years have had hands-on, outdoor tracking experiences, and CREA made that possible.

Rick Wilson, as the contact at Brunswick High School, worked tirelessly to generate ideas, provide supplies and transportation for my students, in tough economic times where getting a bus for a field trip was not possible. He also took time out of his busy schedule to discuss the history of CREA and the changing health of the Merrymeeting Bay area with both sections of my class. Furthermore, Rick and CREA enabled a professional wildlife tracker, Patrick Burke from Stantec, to come to my class and educate my students, in the classroom and out in the field, about animal signs and behavior. Patrick didn't just give a lecture, he led my classes behind the school to scout out tracks. Then, he accompanied us on a trip to CREA's Ecology Center, using a van that CREA provided, to look for tracks. We were very surprised to find tracks and sign of a local red fox as well as raccoon and bobcat. The students had the opportunity to learn outside of the classroom from an experienced tracker, which was unforgettable for them.

Cheryl Sleeper provided tracking and animal tutorials at the Ecology Center, and those lessons were very helpful to my students. Cheryl had all the necessary tracking tools and data sheets ready for my students to use, and was very organized to be sure our time at the Ecology Center was well spent. Together, Cheryl, Patrick, and I helped the students to learn about Maine's wildlife through tracks and sign, and many of my students wished we had another day to learn out there. They actually didn't want class to end!

Thank you to Rick, Cheryl, Patrick, and all members of CREA who enabled this wonderful learning experience for my students. I have greatly appreciated your willingness to help make science come to life for my students.

Sincerely,

Emily L. Jacesko  
Science Teacher, Brunswick High School

C: Paul Perzanoski  
Bruce Cook