

Jordan Acres School

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To whom it may concern:

We are writing in support of the Cathance River Education Alliance (CREA) based in Topsham, Maine.

CREA has been an invaluable addition to our science studies in our combination first/second grade classrooms. We align our studies with the Maine Learning Results (MLR) and we are always looking for ways to expand our students' learning with hands-on experiences. CREA has stepped up to assist us in this process by providing guided visits to the Nature Center and providing an environmental studies teacher to regularly visit our classrooms. The teacher, Sarah Rogers, has come with a variety of lessons and materials to teach about Maine plants and animals, pond life, vernal pools, migration, and life cycles.

These lessons were developed by Sarah in collaboration with the classroom teachers. Sarah made herself available according to our teaching schedules and provided her expertise as a scientist and teacher to us at no cost. This means we get a teacher, materials and professional development for free: a miracle in this profession! Each time Sarah visits she runs 2 one hour workshops back-to-back .

In addition, CREA runs full day workshops for teachers at the Nature Center. Teachers are surveyed for wishes and needs and the people at CREA develop the workshops accordingly. Once again they are aligned to the MLRs. These workshops have included staffed winter hikes,