

**TOWN OF TOPSHAM**  
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT  
AND CODES ENFORCEMENT  
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March 15, 2012

To whom it may concern,

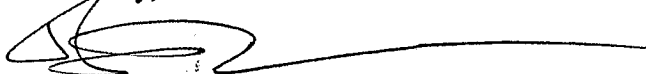
I write this letter to offer full support of the Cathance River Education Alliances endeavors in environmental education and land stewardship.

As Topsham's Natural Resource Planner I have had ample opportunity to work with CREA. Of important note is the impact that this organization has had on the conservation ethic that now exists as part of Topsham's Town Government and its positive effect in regards to local policy decisions. CREA's preservation efforts served as a catalyst for the community to address and implement land conservation strategies throughout the Town of Topsham.

I have personally had the opportunity to benefit from local educational opportunities at the ecology center, and have used the preserve for many natural resource based planning efforts conducted by the Town. Specifically, CREA has helped the Town of Topsham conduct a rapid stream assessment survey of the Cathance River with the help of the Maine Stream Team (Maine DEP) and local school students, and the town has benefited from CREA and Mt. Ararat High School in performing animal track identification in the survey of wildlife corridors throughout town. With the upcoming municipal and school budget cuts in this and next fiscal year, access to CREA's services and programs will become difficult. This highlights the potential loss in educational opportunities as well as tangible town planning products that help Topsham plan for its future.

If you have further questions please contact me at the contact information provided.

Sincerely,



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