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Jason I. Tardy
Superintendent of Schools

February 9, 2017

Dear Members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee,

We are writing this letter to request your support of LD 256, *An Act to Ensure Continued Availability of High-speed Broadband Internet at Maine's Schools and Libraries*.

As a small, rural school district in central Maine, MSAD 53 depends on the Internet access provided through Network Maine to all public schools and libraries. Because of this broadband access, MSAD 53, like many other school districts, has been able to develop curriculum and programming using a variety of technology tools that connect our students to resources that are preparing them for college and career entry.

Loss of high-speed broadband service would set our programs back significantly and create a financial hardship on the district to replace. In our economically challenged communities, the school and public library are often the only places where students and their families have access to high-speed broadband Internet.

A stable source of funding for the Maine Telecommunications Education Access fund is more important than ever as we work to prepare our Maine students for the future. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason Tardy, Superintendent of Schools
Anne V. Miller, Director of Curriculum and Library/Media Specialist
Trudy Ferland, Library Services Technician