

**MAINE  
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**TO:** Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
**FROM:** MPA Legislative Committee  
**SUBJECT:** Supporting LD 1056: An Act To Require Local Voter Approval for Approval for Charter Schools  
**DATE:** April 1, 2013

Senator Millett, Representative MacDonald, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Dick Durost and I am the executive director of the MPA representing 800 elementary, middle and secondary principals and assistant principals of Maine's public and private schools.

The MPA Legislative Committee unanimously supports LD 1056. Present law requires Maine taxpayers to forward GPA funds as well as locally raised property taxes to schools that they have had no opportunity to indicate whether or not they support the establishment of those schools or the use of their local funds. It only seems fair that local taxpayers, as a collective group, should have some say as to how their local property taxes are spent.

We urge the committee to unanimously support the rights of local communities and their taxpayers to determine whether or not they want their taxes to be diverted from supporting their locally approved public schools.

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