



October 12, 2020

Earth Science Teacher Education Matters
c/o Dana Smith
Bemidji Middle School
502 Minnesota Avenue NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

RE: Letter of Support for Earth and Space Science Education in Minnesota

To Whom it May Concern:

The Aggregate & Ready Mix Association of Minnesota (ARM of MN) Environment & Land Use Committee has discussed the proposal to amend the Minnesota high school graduation requirements to require one credit of a dedicated earth and space science (ESS) course taught by a licensed ESS teacher, and secure funding for both the 6th grade and high school Earth Science Teacher Education Matters (ESTEM) training programs for three years as a legislative budget item. ARM of MN understands that this proposal has been developed by the partnership between ESTEM, Education Minnesota (EdMN) and the Minnesota Science Teachers Association (MnSTA). We also understand that the groups are working to earn a position on the upcoming Minnesota legislative agenda to pass legislation in support of the proposal.

The members of ARM of MN realize the importance of ESS education to our careers, our organization, the economy and the Earth. ESS education is fundamental to understanding the connection between society, the economy and natural resources; many challenges and opportunities associated with the aforementioned topics are rooted in ESS. In addition, ESS education can provide a fun introduction to outdoor learning as well as science, technology, engineering and math.

ARM of MN has prepared this letter in support of ESS education in K-12 schools and professional training of Minnesota's ESS teachers to ensure Minnesota students receive a formal introduction to ESS in the 6th grade as well as a dedicated, comprehensive ESS course taught in high school.

Sincerely,
Aggregate & Ready Mix Association of Minnesota (ARM of MN)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Cunningham".

John C. Cunningham
Executive Director, ARM of MN

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jake T. Dalbec".

Jake T. Dalbec, PG
Member, ARM of MN – Environment & Land Use Committee