



SCHOLARS
STRATEGY NETWORK

Maine Voices: Mainers Have a Strong Voice – Tell Sen. Collins Why Maine Needs Science Funding

Michele LaVigne, Bowdoin College

As an oceanographer, I don't typically spend time on Capitol Hill. However, I'm on sabbatical and it is federal appropriations season, so I was recently there with other geoscientists, talking with members of Congress about the importance of federal science funding in our home states.

But researchers aren't the only ones who can advocate for science.

With Sen. Susan Collins as vice chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, every Maine constituent has a voice – and a particularly strong one – when it comes to the federal budget. As the Republican leader on this committee with a record of supporting science and [funding for Maine](#), she is a powerful player in these tough negotiations.