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July 29, 2022

U.S Senator Martin Heinrich
400 Gold Ave SW Suite 1080
Albuquerque, NM. 87102

Subject: Living School Yards Act Endorsement

Dear Senator Heinrich,

At Environmental Education of New Mexico, we work to ensure that all New Mexico k-12 kids have equitable and daily access to the outdoors and environmental learning. As the professional support network for environmental education in New Mexico, we support educators, community members, and youth across the state through advocacy, leadership training, professional development, and much more.

The Living School Yards Act aligns directly with our community-generated shared vision and strategy for environmental and outdoor learning, Every Kid, Every Day, Every Way. This strategy provides a framework for systemic change to support every kid in New Mexico with everyday access to outdoor and environmental learning relevant to place and community. Incorporating accessible outdoor spaces to facilitate hands-on, standards-aligned learning in schools is a top policy priority in this framework.

We support the Living School Yards Act of 2022 because of this direct alignment with Every Kid, Every Day, Every Way. We strongly believe the emphasis on tending to schoolyards as dynamic outdoor learning environments will support our network's growing momentum to increase outdoor and environmental learning within school districts across the state and at the federal level.

Sincerely,

Tallie Segel
Director of Strategy
[Enclosures: Every Kid, Every Day, Every Way Strategic Priorities]