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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**IN SUPPORT OF LD 1363**

*An Act to Support Extraction of Common Minerals by Amending the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act*

**April 13, 2023**

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources, my name is Stephen Dickson, and I am the State Geologist and Director of the Maine Geological Survey. I am speaking on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) in favor of LD 1363, *An Act to Support Extraction of Common Minerals by Amending the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act*.

This bill sets regulatory guidance according to the potential environmental impact of mining different rock types. It also takes a science-based approach that considers the geologic differences among many types of mineral deposits in Maine rocks.

This amendment would allow surface excavation of rocks of granitic composition but only if water quality standards are met. The environmental impact of this type of excavation is similar to the impacts of quarries, which are allowed under separate rules. This bill will more properly align the regulation of granitic rock excavation with that of other quarried stone. This bill will continue the existing prohibition against mining rocks that would lead to acidic drainage with environmental impacts.

This bill also allows the quarrying of limestone for cement manufacturing to continue by correcting the existing statutory definition.

The Department supports the amendments to the Maine Mineral Mining Act proposed in LD 1363. I would be happy to answer any questions now or at the work session.

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