

131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1508

H.P. 963

House of Representatives, April 5, 2023

An Act to Ensure a Strategic Approach to Maine's Energy Transition by Imposing a Moratorium on Lithium Mining

Reference to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.

R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative O'NEIL of Saco. Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and Representatives: MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, PLUECKER of Warren, WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor, ZEIGLER of Montville, Senator: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox.

1	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
2 3	Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §490-MM, sub-§8, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 653, §23 and affected by §33, is amended to read:
4 5 6 7	8. Metallic mineral. "Metallic mineral" means any ore or material to be excavated from the natural deposits on or in the earth for its metallic mineral content to be used for commercial or industrial purposes. "Metallic mineral" <u>includes, but is not limited to, lithium and</u> does not include thorium or uranium.
8	Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §490-OO, sub-§4, ¶P is enacted to read:
9 10	<u>P. The mining operation will not involve the extraction or removal of ore or other material that contains lithium.</u>
11	This paragraph is repealed October 1, 2028.
12	SUMMARY
13 14	This bill amends the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act to clarify that the term "metallic mineral" as used in that law includes lithium. It also prohibits the Department of
15 16 17	Environmental Protection from issuing a mining permit under that law for a mining operation that involves the extraction or removal of ore or other material that contains lithium. This prohibition is repealed October 1, 2028.