

David Pope
Wiscasset
LD 1495

I am David Pope of Wiscasset, Maine, a retired high school science teacher. In 1966, while in college, I prospected in the wilds of Quebec for a company which had discovered a copper deposit. Today, more than 50 years later, I returned by Google Earth only to find several stagnant looking ponds on denuded ground. The magnificent river, which ran through the deposit, is now in a ditch, diverted around the formerly forested mine site. Countless stories like this have made people wary of any attempts to change Maine's stringent mining laws.

The LD 1495 Commission would be comprised of a cross section of Maine people. Based on their findings, the public and lawmakers would build understanding of modern mining methods, and be able to evaluate proposed changes to Maine's mining laws. Without such a review and resulting education, proposed changes will face justified mistrust of mining, mistrust of government, mistrust of science. In short, this Commission would make it possible to make informed decisions about Maine mining laws. This Commission is needed if we are to make thoughtful progress with our mining laws. I urge you to support it.

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