

3/20/25

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, I am Alice Bolstridge from Presque Isle. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of LD 1073. It would provide much needed protections for human health as well as the environment which LD 820 does not provide.

Since 2012 when JD Irving was trying to convince the legislature that the mining regulations then were “too onerous” to mine Bald Mountain, I have researched metallic mineral mining every year as I prepare to testify. I know from all this research and from listening every year to overwhelming numbers of people testifying in opposition to weak mining rules that metallic mineral mining in Maine’s wet climate would be among the most toxic for human health in the United States.

I grew up in Portage, Maine near the Bald Mountain site. I know workers involved in the original exploration in the 1970s who became sick just from the dust of the drilling holes. One broke out in a rash so severe he had to be taken to the emergency room for treatment. I have heard testimony at legislative hearings from medical doctors about serious medical effects which sound deadly to me. I have heard repeated testimony from environmental scientists about the risks of pollution from toxic chemicals

An article from the National Institutes of Health says, "Because of their high degree of toxicity, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead, and mercury [all elements found at toxic levels at Bald Mountain] rank among the priority metals that are of public health significance. These metallic elements are considered systemic toxicants that are known to induce multiple organ damage, even at lower levels of exposure. They are also classified as human carcinogens” (<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4144270/>).

I have repeatedly asked for evidence that any metallic mining in Maine’s wet climate can be safe for human health and the environment No one—not the geologists I have asked, not the legislators, not the environmentalist supporters of LD 820—has been able or willing to provide such evidence.

LD 1073 could “provide the department with authority to take action necessary to prevent an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health [. . .] regardless of whether a violation exists.”

Please vote “ought to pass.”

Sincerely,

*Alice Bolstridge*

Alice Bolstridge  
Presque Isle  
LD 1073

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Please vote “ought to pass.”

Alice Bolstridge, Ph. D.

<https://alice1938.blogspot.com/>

19 State St., Presque Isle, Maine, [bolstridgea38@gmail.org](mailto:bolstridgea38@gmail.org)