

## In Support of LD 936

Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier, Honorable Members of the Committee on Taxation,

I am Bruce Taylor from the town of Sweden. I am a physician and a former member of the selectboard. I support LD 936.

After trying to read the entirety of both bills, there was much that I did not understand due to my ignorance of legal and tax matters. However, there are 2 areas that stood out and I would like to discuss.

First, both bills have a 5% tax rate which is far better than the 3.5% initially proposed in the Governors bill last session. That is a definite improvement, but as I'll get to shortly, it is still too low for what is needed.

Second, and very significantly, the bills differ on where the tax money should be deposited. I feel that, as proposed by LD 936, 75% of revenue should be deposited into the Mining Excise Tax Trust Fund. Section 452 directs that in part the fund is to "protect municipalities from any adverse impact resulting from mining of metallic minerals". This is vital since metallic mining could become a major industry and economic force all over our state. But mining generates major detrimental impacts on affected communities and their populations health and welfare.

Mining will externalize costly economic and health burdens onto the local municipalities and their citizens. As a former selectman, I would be concerned about the damage and wear and tear to town roads, erosion and waste water treatment, and loss of use of parks or recreational area from mining activities and mining waste and emission. Noise disruption from blasting or rock crushing.

Fine particulate matter is generated in all aspects of mining and is associated with costly respiratory diseases (especially asthma), and is correlated with school absenteeism. Both the US Center for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics state there is no safe level of lead. Lead is a common mine emission and found in stored mine

waste . Studies from Australia demonstrate decrease in standardized academic tests the closer a student is to a mining operation. At the bankrupt Callahan Corporation mine superfund site in Brooksville that went bankrupt in 1972 despite ongoing remediation, harvesting shellfish due to toxic metals is prohibited.

There must be a reliable fund with adequate revenues to help the affected municipalities. Bruce D Taylor, MD, FAAP  
Town of Sweden

Please pass LD 936, but increase the tax rate.

Thank you.