

Arleigh Kraus
Warren
LD 936

Testimony in Support of LD 936

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

My name is Arleigh Kraus, I am a scientist with a degree in biochemistry, an organic farmer, and business owner in Warren. I am a board member of CARMA, Citizens Against Residential Mining Activities as well as working with several other experts in mining and environmental policy across the state.

I am submitting testimony in support LD 936.

The proposed 5% mining excise tax rate is an improvement from 3.5% suggested in previous bills but in my opinion still low for such a tremendous burden on our citizens, municipalities and infrastructure. We are not similar to other states with metallic mineral mining in that Maine is extremely wet and we have sulfidic ore capable of generating acid mine runoff quickly. The state of Maine is still paying for the Callahan mine cleanup decades after its closure.

LD 936 rightly directs 75% of tax revenue to the Mining Excise Tax Trust Fund to hopefully assist municipalities in mitigating the significant economic and health burdens of metallic mining. Mining damages roads, increases erosion, strains wastewater treatment, and disrupts communities with noise and air pollution. Fine particulate matter and lead emissions pose serious health risks, particularly to children, contributing to respiratory diseases and lower academic performance. I do question How will municipalities with metallic mining operations access funding to assist with maintenance and updates to infrastructure and critical services for their communities if the Mining Impact Assistance Fund is eliminated? What will the process be for providing funding from the mining excise tax fund to be made available to those municipalities with mining operations.

History has shown that mining contamination has long-term consequences, as seen at the Callahan Corporation Superfund site in Brooksville, where toxic metals still prevent shellfish harvesting decades later. Maine must ensure a dedicated, reliable fund to support impacted communities.

I urge you to support LD 936. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Arleigh Kraus