

Lisa Savage
Solon
LD 1073

Please vote "ought to pass" on LD 1073. As a retired Mainer who was born in our state I fear that the continued industrial use of Maine's natural resources will ruin our state for my grandchildren.

There are no specific human health protections or evaluations in the current Metallic Mineral Mining law.

Communities affected by mining should be granted a 'Right to Know' status in a transparent, contemporaneous and public manner. This will allow people to understand the risks to their families from potential exposure to toxic materials from mining operations.

This bill would also require that there is adequate monitoring of toxic waste after closure. The monitoring will occur for as long as the danger of contamination persists and not terminate at an arbitrary date while the toxic waste may still be harmful. The monitoring must be active, and there must be financial assurance to cover the monitoring and any remediation.

Needless to say, the health and economic burden should not be placed on communities long after mining operations have been terminated.

The current mining laws provide for closing the barn door after the horse has gotten out. That is, currently there must be a violation in order to have legally mandated protections for people's health. This bill attempts to intervene to help prevent violations in the first place.