

Diane Oltarzewski  
Belfast  
LD 1073

Greetings Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and Members of the Committee: My name is Diane Oltarzewski, resident of Belfast ME. I write to support LD 1073 proposing amendments to the Maine Metallic Mining Mineral Act. Now more than ever before, Maine must act in the best interests of vulnerable populations, to advance health equity.

In many ways, if we don't stand our ground now in this critical area, all that we cherish could be lost. Metallic mineral mining is one of the most polluting industries imaginable, creating perpetual acid reactive drainage. Maine's climate, wet and cold, exacerbates such lethal pollution.

Our tax dollars are still being used in remedial cleanup in some of our treasured coastal communities. For-profit mining conglomerates never stay around to clean up their messes unless they are forced to by law. Metallic mining threatens our wildlife and lands in a way that could doom natural environmental tourism. It seems that too-cautious reining in of mining interests inevitably results in devastating poisonous contamination of a wide area, and all of God's creation —pristine waters, microorganisms, fish, animals small and large, the natural growth of plants and forests — suffers.

Many of us spoke to this threat posed by a project at Pickett Mountain, and the Planning Commission heard us and rejected the project.

Certainly, LD 1073 deserves our support - and then some! Please vote ought to pass. Thank you.