

To: Sen. Martin, Rep. Soboleski, Rep. Lance, Rep. Schmursal-Burgess, Rep. Wadsworth, and members of the Environment and Natural Resources' Committee

From: Sharon Peralta, 82 Stanley Road, Springvale, ME 04083

**Re: Opposition to LD 795 "An Act to Exempt Pegmatite Mining from the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act and Establish a Permit-by-rule Process"**

My name is Sharon Peralta and I live in Springvale, ME. I am writing to testify in opposition to LD 795.

I have lived in my present home since 2003. When I moved in, trees surrounding this property were green and lush, my shallow dug well was ample and of decent quality. In recent years, I've watched loads of trees go down the road via increased heavy traffic. The air no longer smells fresh, but routinely has chemical odors, trees still standing are covered with lichen and dying. Birds, bats, insects and amphibian populations are noticeably diminished around my property. As I've driven around the area, I see similar dying of woodlands that have not been clearcut. The quality of my well water is diminished. I attribute these changes to unmanaged or poorly managed development and lack of regulation to protect surrounding land, water and communities.

Maine has some beautiful landscape, with varied timber, lakes, rivers, streams, small ponds, vernal pools, and marshlands. These areas are not only beautiful, but also critical to diversified life which in concert keep the habitat healthy and productive. Our farmers rely on healthy soil, water and air to grow livestock, flocks and produce. All of us rely on the same for our own physical health. Many of our rural and poor rely on these for their personal gardens, foraging and harvesting of fish and game to feed their families. Indeed, in Springvale, I often see people fishing from the bridge on Stanley Road in the Mousam River. I also see them in the same river along Route 109. Many I suspect are not just doing this for sport so much as to provide a meal.

Our indigenous communities are extremely reliant on these sources to provide for themselves. Their communities have also seen some of the worst pollution and destruction, whether it be from toxic landfills to mills polluting their land and waters.

Mining is a destructive industry and leaves nothing in its wake but toxic waste. Soil and rock are torn up, polluted with chemicals and discarded leaving scars on the land that will not support any kind of life. Containment pools seep, leak, and flood; spewing more toxins onto land and into water. For these reasons, I oppose LD 795 which is a one-sided benefit to the miner. It offers no consideration for impacted communities or provision to remedy any harm done. As noted previously: mining always does harm. This bill would further devastate the health of our environment and those that live on it for the sole reason of profit of the miner.

Thank you for considering my comments.