

3/23/25

Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
Maine State House  
3/24/25 at 11am

Dear members of the committee,

I am Magili Chapman Quinn, DO and I am testifying in support of LD 1073, "An Act to Amend Provisions of the Maine Metallic Mining and Mineral Act to Advance Health Equity and Improve the Well Being of Vulnerable Populations" submitted by Representative Ambureen Rana.

I grew up in Western Maine and have long been aware of the tradition and importance of mining here. The existence of minerals and unique geological formations is a true marvel of these lands we inhabit. That said, mining these metallic compounds that are highly sought after today has a far different impact on the land, as well as our health than the operations of previous decades. Given the history of extracting resources from the ground for our energy and other needs, and its impact on climate change, I am actually opposed to the entire process and industry, and favor renewable resource expansion and a focus on decreasing use.

However, in light of the executive order issued last Thursday 3/20, directing expedited permitting for metallic mining and opening federal lands to this mining for transportation, defense, and high tech advancements as well as the fact that Metallic mining is known a a highly polluting form of mining, LD 1073 is more important than ever.

As a physician I know the effect of increasing toxic burden in our environment on the overall health of our population, not to mention other species. The comprehensive baseline assessment for mining communities prior to initiating mining is essential. The communities considering entering into mining should have a "right to know" status in a transparent manner, allowing them to understand potential risks from exposure to toxic mining materials. LD 1073 provides this.

Also essential is the bill's attention to requiring adequate monitoring of toxic waste after closure, monitoring that occurs for as long as there is danger associated with the waste should be ensured and LD 1073 addresses this need.

I appreciate your consideration of my testimony on this important issue, and short of reassessing the overall risk/benefit of mining metallic elements altogether, I urge you to recommend adopting LD 1073.

Thank you,  
Magili Chapman Quinn, DO  
Scarborough, ME

