

Adinah Barnett
South Portland
LD 1073

Greetings Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and ENR Committee Members, My name is Adinah Barnett, I live in South Portland, ME and I am testifying in support of LD 1073 “An Act to Amend Provisions of the Maine Metallic Mining Mineral Act to Advance Health Equity and Improve the Well Being of Vulnerable Populations”.

I am very concerned with the Presidential move to open National Parks, Tribal lands and other areas of especially critical environmental sensitivity to metal mining. Metal mining has a history of grave mishaps that result in legacies of pollution, harm to waterways, animals and people. Even when metal mining operations run as planned, the costs to health and safety are too great to risk.

Please support LD 1073. Some of the things it would offer:

A comprehensive baseline health assessment for mining communities prior to initiation of mining operations. It also requires periodic reevaluation. 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 communities to understand the risks 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. The health and economic burden should not be placed on communities long after the mining operations have been terminated. In the current mining laws you have to have a violation in order to have protection of human health. This bill provides an intervention step to help prevent mining violations.

I very much appreciate the committee voting to support the health and well being of the land, water and countless lives great and small in our beloved Maine.

Thank you,
Adinah Barnett