

Tina Streker
Nobleboro
LD 1073

Greetings Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and ENR Committee Members,

My name is Tina Streker, I live in Nobleboro, 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 a nurse and retired U.S. Army Public Health Nurse with 24 years of active-duty military service who has seen first-hand the health effects of toxic materials exposure to individuals, communities and populations. I ask that you support the solutions that LD 1073 provides.

We the citizens of Maine deserve these protections codified in law to prevent dangerous unsafe consequences to our land, waterways and our children. Without the protection of LD 1073 the cost burden to our state and nation could lead to an economic downfall. LD 1073 provides a solution to that requiring a baseline health assessment for mining communities prior to initiation of mining operations with periodic reevaluation. There are no specific human health protections or evaluations in the current Metallic Mineral Mining law. All Communities affected by mining and the State of Maine should be granted a ‘Right to Know’ status in a transparent public manner and forum. The provisions that LD 1073 provides will allow folks to understand the real risks to themselves, their children and the environment from real and potential exposures to toxic materials from mining operations. The bill also requires monitoring of toxic waste after closure, which is vital for the future of our State – its lands, waters, and peoples. This monitoring according to this bill will occur as long as the danger of contamination persists and ensures that the health and economic burden is not placed on communities long after mining operations have been terminated and companies after having made their money have moved on and left our communities neglected and disinvested. There must be financial assurance to promote the health of Maine’s people and environmental resources. We need LD 1073 to prevent mining violations and protect Maine.

Very Respectfully,
Tina M. Streker
Nobleboro, ME