

Testimony IN OPPOSITION
LD 795 An Act to Exempt Pegmatite Mining from the Maine Metallic
Mineral Mining Act and Establish a Permit-by-rule Process
Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Public Hearing
March 24, 2025 | Submitted by Jacquelyn Elliott

Chair Senator Tepler, Chair Representative Doudera and Honorable Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony **IN OPPOSITION TO LD 795**. For decades I have advocated for policy that protects public health and the environment and upholds the rights of citizens most impacted by policy decisions. Mining is an activity fraught with risk and hazard for communities adjacent those operations. However, contamination from toxic mining operations can spread beyond areas most immediately impacted and operations in general, intersect with much that is detrimental to sustaining public health and a healthy planet. It is incumbent upon State Regulators to employ the most protective guidelines to permit and oversee such operations. LD 795 would weaken protections.

Maine's Department of Environmental Protection mission states in part: **Legislative mandate directs DEP to prevent, abate and control the pollution of the air, water and land. The charge is to preserve, improve and prevent diminution of the natural environment of the State.** Maine citizens have a legitimate expectation that the Department will support those goals with the most effective regulation possible. LD 795 would not achieve that.

Maine has continued to work on mining regulation that protects our valuable resources, the health of our environment, and the health of our people from predatory mining operations. **LD 795 would increase Maine's vulnerability** and represents a wrong-headed approach to permit and oversight decisions. Maine has taken important steps to lead on protections for our State and its citizens. Please continue that progress and vote unanimously **OUGHT NOT TO PASS**. Thank you for considering my comments.

Jackie Elliott
Waterboro, ME 04087
j.c.elliott@roadrunner.com