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LD 1073

I write in support of LD 1073, An Act to Amend Provisions of the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act to Advance Health Equity and Improve the Well-being of Vulnerable Populations. While most of us use products that require the mining of metals, these extractive mining processes must include provisions for the protection of human health. This bill has reasonable guardrails on the mining process, and includes the following: a baseline comprehensive health assessment with periodic re-evaluations for the mining communities; a provision guaranteeing "Right to Know" for communities affected by the mining operations; and a provision for the monitoring of toxic waste after the mine's closure. Included with this last provision would be assurances that the financial cost of monitoring, and any needed remediation, would not be borne by the affected communities long after the mining operations have been terminated.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. Please support LD 1073.