

Jillian Howell  
Belfast  
LD 1073

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and ENR Committee Members:

My name is Jillian Howell, I live in Belfast, Maine 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.”

The current metallic mining rules do not do enough to protect, or provide information to communities impacted by mining. There are currently no specific human health protections or evaluations in the current Metallic Mineral Mining law. Further, you have to have a violation in order to have protection of human health. LD 1073 would provide comprehensive baseline health assessment for mining communities prior to initiation of mining operations as well as periodic reevaluation.

Current mining laws also place the health and economic burden of on communities after mining operations have been terminated. This bill would require that there is adequate monitoring of toxic waste after closure.

In order to protect the health and wellbeing of communities being impacted by metallic mining, I urge you to vote to SUPPORT this bill.