

Good morning Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and ENR Committee Members

My name is Anne D. (Andy) Burt. I live in Edgecomb, ME. 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.”

Today, as pressure from the federal government mounts to rapidly open up land to extractive industries such as metallic mineral mining, it is timely that this bill comes before the ENR Committee. As the saying goes: “A stitch in time saves nine.” Shoring up Maine’s mineral mining act now, as LD 1073 would do, proactively protects the health and rights of Maine people and their communities, as well as their pocketbooks.

We know from experience that mining sites — the **superfund Callahan zinc and copper mine** in Brooksville is a good example — have long-term toxic effects on groundwater and the health and economic well-being of nearby communities of people and wildlife. And we know from experience that we, the taxpayers, have been left to pay exorbitant clean-up costs for decades. In fact, clean-up at the Callahan site continues today. I have personally waited for and watched the excruciatingly long clean-up process at Callahan as our family has had a home in the area for almost 60 years, and more recently, a summer business there.

LD 1073 would importantly require:

- **A comprehensive baseline health assessment. with on-going evaluations, for mining communities** before mining operations commence. In Maine’s current Metallic Mineral Mining law there are no specific human health protections or re-evaluations.
- Affected mining communities should be granted a **'Right to Know' status**. This means they are publicly kept informed of the risks to their health and well-being from toxic materials exposed by mining operations.
- **Adequate monitoring of toxic waste after closure**. Monitoring is active and continues as long as the danger of contamination persists. The mining company must provide **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.

This bill would substantially improve protections for the environment and Maine people's health while also requiring upfront financial assurances that protect taxpayers' pocketbooks. Enactment is a **wise investment in Maine's future**.

I urge you to vote unanimously **OUGHT TO PASS** on LD 1073.

Anne D Burt  
Edgecomb  
LD 1073

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