

Orion Ortolf  
Lewiston  
LD 1073

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

My name is Orion Ortolf, I live in Lewiston, 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".

Metallic mining is known as the most destructive and polluting human activity on the planet. Because of the federal executive order issued on Thursday, March 20, the permitting for metallic mining process has been expedited and federal lands will be opened up for extracting metallic minerals. Now, more than ever, we must advance metallic mining protections here in Maine to protect our citizen's health, especially disproportionately vulnerable populations. This bill would ensure that there is adequate and appropriate monitoring of toxic waste levels after the closure of metallic mines, which is essential for the wellbeing of future generations in our great and beautiful state.