

Jason Barrett  
Pembroke  
LD 795

My name is Jason Barrett, I'm active duty army, but call Maine home and own a home in Washington County, ME. I am testifying against LD 795 - "An Act to Exempt Pegmatite Mining from the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act and Establish a Permit-by-rule process". Having seen the effects of mining in Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and other parts of the world and after spending every free minute of my life for three years fighting against commercial metallic mineral mining in Pembroke, I think we need more regulation, not less. In my opinion mining companies cannot be trusted to do the right thing. It's not profitable for them. Historically, every metallic mineral mine in the world has polluted while operating and after, when the taxpayers are left holding the bag. We should not be doing things to make it easier for the mining companies to come in and take what they want. We should be making it more difficult. There should be increased requirements to conduct exploration, independent monitoring paid for by the mining companies, way more money held back for remediation when it is needed, and much stiffer penalties for environmental and safety violations. LD 795 doesn't help anyone except the mining companies, by making it easier for them to operate in Maine. Before we do anything to make it easier for mining companies in Maine, we at least need to look at the laws and regulations relating to monitoring mining activities and remediation. There are actually current laws on the books that only require the mining companies to self-report if they violate environmental or safety laws, but there is no incentive for them to do so. LD 795 should be killed in committee and definitely never voted on and passed. Thank you for your time.