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To: Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Re: LD 795 An Act to Exempt Pegmatite Mining from the Maine Metallic  
Mineral Mining Act and Establish a Permit-by-rule Process  
Date: March 24, 2025

Dear Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee

I am a resident of North Haven Island in Penobscot Bay. Open Pit mining is already causing toxicity to our waters from the defunct Callahan Mining operations that is now a SuperFund Site and will remain such for the foreseeable future. This bill would expand the area and thus impact of mining operations from the current 5 acres to 20 acres. Given the likelihood of radioactive materials and certain air born contamination from these operations, any expansion of the area permitted would increase the toxic impacts of these operations.

In addition, reducing the oversight of pegmatite mining operations by decreasing the level of DEP scrutiny increases the impact to the local community. While pegmatite mining at first blush seems innocuous, opening Maine to lower restrictions in operations that in current market conditions are likely to be very lucrative seems counter productive and disturbingly dismissive of mining impacts to the local community members.

I live next door to an unrestricted, grandfathered gravel pit. The impact to my own land is unregulated, and I cannot grow even hay on that field. It certainly bears noting that 20 acres of mining area without restriction would open a much larger impact zone. Please vote "ought not to pass" on LD 795.

Respectfully Submitted

Becky Layton Bartovics