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TO: Senator Denise Tepler, Representative Victoria Doudera and Members of the Joint  
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Date: March 24, 2025

Re: LD 1073 An Act to Amend Provisions of the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act to Advance  
Health Equity and Improve the Well-being of Vulnerable Populations

Dear Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of Penobscot Bay whose family depends on these waters, I am aware of the disastrous former Callahan mining operation that is still a SuperFund Site and still contributes to the toxicity of adjacent waters. Toxicity downstream from metallic mining is known to be one of the most polluted water and air anywhere on earth.<sup>1</sup> I urge you to vote “ought to pass” on LD 1073.

It is essential to increase the safety of mining operations planned in Maine for the health of the local populations who will have to deal with significant health and welfare hardships without the provisions so well crafted in this bill. In the face of such drastic destruction of existing federal environmental regulations which had its roots here in Maine under Senators Muskie and Mitchell, it is imperative that we find ways to protect our waters, air and thus our adjacent communities.

While there are those who say that Maine’s Mining Regulations are substantial, there are many holes in those laws that currently do not protect the residents who live proximate to mining sites. Air and Water Quality are at risk due to open pit mining that has been proposed multiple times in Maine in the past few years. The original mining bills under which the State would provide supervision now do not protect communities from long term mining impacts economically. Increasing surety requirements for mining operations that would otherwise take their profits and leave the state to deal with the consequences is imperative as well.

Given the financial upside to mining operations, requiring increased scrutiny and surety are paramount for the health of our state. Maine has not historically held our out of state, large and extractive businesses to account. This bill begins to rectify that situation.

I urge you to vote ought to pass on LD 1073

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Layton Bartovics

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2405844020315346>

