

Hendrik Gideonse  
Brooklin  
LD 795

Testimony of Hendrik D. Gideonse (119 Old County Road, Brooklin, ME 04616, 781-759,7025 gideonse@midmaine.com) on LD 795 - An Act to Exempt Pegmatite Mining from the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act and Establish a Permit-by-rule Process, March 24, 2025

Chairman Denise Tepler, Representative Victoria Doudera , members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, I am Hendrik D. Gideonse of Brooklin, ME. I testify today in opposition to bill LD 795.

Only one of your number and Dan Tartakoff know who I am. Maine attempts to assure the refreshment of energy in the Legislature and the closeness of legislative policy formulation to the people of Maine by establishing term limits for service in each chamber. But there are important caveats associated with that structure. Deep expertise within each chamber is a happenstance of who you legislators are. However, volunteer participants to legislative affairs can occasionally offer expertise and/or develop it over time. And that is exactly how I came to devote a half dozen years to metal mining policy.

Indeed, some of your predecessors may have thought I haunted the spectator seats in several committee meeting spaces as legislators wrestled with consideration of matters then on my public advocacy agenda. That list included an unprecedented upheaval of metal mining standards in Maine then long in place but within thirty days were re-written by the mining interests themselves thereby raising the specter of environmental dangers summarily being revisited on the state. I was one of a small handful of essentially volunteers who responded to legislators' calls for help, one of whom was my representative, Ralph Chapman.

It took years of hard-slogging work for me to develop sufficient expertise before I could contribute to undo the damage that was nearly visited upon the state. LD 795 threatens to revisit the near disaster that was avoided by a half dozen years of hard work undertaken a dozen years ago.

I spent a couple of hours over the weekend first reading the bill. I noted its brevity. Then I pursued online the potential environmental risks of largescale mining of pegmatite ores.

My academic preparation seventy years ago was in political science, then in education, history, and philosophy. My professional employment thereafter was the practices of policy development, implementation, and evaluation. Becoming sufficiently knowledgeable about mining science, policy, and practice took me a couple of years in my seventies to reach the point of competence sufficient for airing it in public.

All this leads me to make two recommendations to you:

#1. Do not endorse this bill until each of you is sure in your own mind that you understand exactly and fully what environmental risks are possible for the particular kind of mining it would enable. And,

#2. That you feel fully capable of describing what those risks are to your spouses, your children, your grandchildren. and any high school class that might invite you to explain your vote after the fact. If either of these obligations eludes or scares you, you must vote "No." Any thing less than this will be inconsistent with your obligation for due diligence.

Thank you for your attention.