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

My name is D. Gordon Mott, I live and vote in Lakeville, Penobscot County, 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”.

I have read the entire bill and commend the sponsors for the comprehensive span of precautions and procedures that it contains.

I note particularly the exemplary additions to Maine’s Mining Law in the form of procedures and planning and monitoring that consist of important – invaluable – precautions that should have been present in the original legislation. It clearly reflects the lessons that have been learned in the last few years as attempts have gone forward to establish mining developments that work around existing standards.

It is not clear to me whether there is a sufficient call for financial security to be put in place in advance to cover rehabilitation in the event of failure or damage caused by mining. Please consider this aspect of mining and take advantage of the current legislative attention to ensure something of that kind is in place as you work the bill.

As a forester I have spent a 70-year career, together with many others and our important public agencies, managing parts of our natural forest and river habitats to keep them unspoiled on our watch for the people of the future. We know from the damages seen elsewhere just how serious mining damage can be and how serious the precautions are that are before you.

Please take it with great seriousness that your work and your positive decisions on this bill will place you among those who have contributed greatness in Maine’s legacy of caring for our natural resources and our people. Serious things are in your few hands.

With thanks and appreciation for what you do.

D. Gordon Mott