

Catherine Jewell  
LINCOLN  
LD 795

Senator and Chairwoman Denise Tepler, Representative and Chairwoman Victoria Doudera, and Honorable Members of this Environment and Natural Resources Committee. I would like to thank you for listening to my concerns and comments regarding:

\* LD 795

My name is Catherine Jewell from Lincoln, Maine, and I am writing as a lifelong citizen of this state with deep concern regarding LD 795, a bill that seems to threaten to diminish Maine's carefully crafted safety regulations over mining operations in our beautiful state. This bill appears to make exempt from those regulations the mining of lithium deposits without adhering to the carefully constructed Maine Mining Rules. These are regulations that are supposed to protect the people of Maine by preventing potential disasters and the damage that can occur with these mining practices to humans and the environment alike. This bill could detrimentally affect the town of Newry, Maine, home to the ski resort, Sunday River, an extremely popular tourist destination in Maine. The exemption suggested in this bill would likely have an impact not only on tourism but to the health and well-being of the people of Newry and beyond. The Bear River and Sunday River both drain from the town of Newry into the Androscoggin River. The Androscoggin River has a drainage basin of 3,530 square miles and ultimately flows into the Kennebec River before emptying into the Gulf of Maine. Please consider the very real potential for groundwater contamination in this area of Maine as well as other potential environmental safety issues such as air pollution with impact to human health. I would urge you to hold steady on the regulations that have been previously authored to protect our environment and Maine people and reject LD 795.

Thank you for listening to my thoughts as a concerned citizen and thank you for your work in protecting our beloved State of Maine.