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LD 1073

Hello- my name is David Nishizaki and I'm a resident of Vassalboro, Maine. I'm writing today to exhort the committee to endorse LD 1073. We need to pump the brakes on what anyone with eyes in their head can see is the calm before the storm of an undemocratic, corporate coup that has its vision set, unsurprisingly, on a myopic, short-sighted resource grab. Maine is a water-rich "wet" state, and this bears repeating every time we examine any kind of industrial and extractive activity. It should be the foremost priority of any body charged with the protection of the environment to prioritize the wellbeing of ecosystems and communities; and LD 1073 represents a step towards ensuring we have a sturdy baseline of protection for the challenges fast-approaching. Mining is, no joke, the most destructive and polluting relationship humans can possibly have with the planet. To wit, Maine's current mining protections are far from the nation's toughest (despite industry's gleeful reiteration of this as an underhanded way to install false confidence in our regulations.) Many rules and regulations were simply copied from legislation developed in arid regions in the American West.

The default setting, for too long, has been an unquestioning friendliness to mining proposals, permit expansions, and the like. I'd love to see Maine carry the torch to center community health, wellbeing, and institute a proactive pre-disaster assessment roadmap for what is without doubt a singularly problematic industry that has left communities holding extreme cleanup bills after suffering from water contamination. Please support Representative Rana's LD 1073 - we are Maine, we are Maine's waters, and we are Maine's future- we are far and away more important than out of state mining profits and the short-sighted false promises that are part and parcel of how the mining industry objectively works.