

Michael Reddy
Dresden
LD 795

Greetings Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and ENR Committee Members, My name is Michael Reddy, I own land in Dresden, ME and I am testifying against LD 795 – “An Act to Exempt Pegmatite Mining from the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act and Establish a Permit-by-rule Process:.

The implications of opening Maine to mining, and more extractive industries as a whole, are dangerous for the health and well-being of our lands, waters, and communities. The economic promises made by prospectors are best-case-scenario projections that don't take seriously the externalized costs to our State. Sacrificing clean water, tourism and outdoor recreation dollars for lithium production is not a good trade-off for Mainers.

While lithium currently dominates the worldwide battery market, its long-term position is anything but certain as its life-cycle is mired by extreme environmental degradation at the point of extraction, processing, and disposal, and its shipment, use, and storage entails significant risks for impossible to control fires--the reason you can't bring batteries on the plane with you when you travel. Other battery technology, including Calcium Ion batteries already in production in Chinese EVs, greatly reduce the environmental contamination intrinsic to lithium at the points of extraction, processing, and disposal, and have none of the risk of fire/explosion because unlike lithium batteries they can be stored and shipped without a charge.

In short, the dominance of lithium as a fuel for batteries will be short lived, as will be any economic benefits that might come from inverting our earth. The environmental impacts, on the other hand, are sure to be long-term. Sacrificing our environment and community health for the promise of short-term economic gain, is short-sighted at best. We must care for the land and waters that have been the basis for our well-being for hundreds of years, and not jump head first into a legacy of destruction for the short term economic gain of a few.

Thanks for your time and consideration.