

April 13, 2023

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, I will be discussing the merits of mining pegmatites for lithium in Maine. Maine has some of the largest pegmatite deposits in the USA, containing high concentrations of lithium-bearing minerals such as spodumene, lepidolite, and petalite. Mining pegmatites for lithium in Maine could have significant environmental benefits, particularly in the context of the urgent need to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable energy sources.

It's important to consider the impact of sourcing lithium from other countries. Over 40,000 children are reportedly enslaved by a Chinese company "Dongfang Mining (CDM)" in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to mine cobalt, a key component of lithium batteries. Additionally, there are concerns about the use of slave labor from the Uyghurs in China to mine other minerals used in lithium batteries. This has led to the term "Blood Batteries" being used to describe lithium batteries made using such unethical practices and being sold to all of us here in the USA.

By mining pegmatites for lithium in Maine, the US could reduce its reliance on imported lithium that makes these "Blood Batteries." This could help reduce the carbon footprint

associated with transportation and logistics, as well as the environmental and ethical impact of mining in other countries.

Mining pegmatites for lithium in Maine is also considered to be a more environmentally friendly option than other mining methods in other types of formations. Pegmatites are typically found in hard rock formations, which means there is no need for any large open-pit mining. This reduces the amount of waste rock that needs to be excavated and the impact on the surrounding environment. Furthermore, mining pegmatites for lithium in Maine is less energy-intensive than mining other minerals such as copper, iron, silver, lead, and gold mines of old.

Despite these potential benefits, there have been calls to ban or restrict mining in Maine, citing concerns about the potential environmental impact. While it is important to protect the environment, copying laws from other states without considering the specific circumstances in Maine could have unintended negative consequences, such as lost economic opportunities and increased reliance on foreign sources of lithium.

It's important to note that the lithium ore mined in Maine will be processed out of state, which means that the environmental impact of processing the ore is not directly related to mining in Maine. Therefore, mining pegmatites for lithium in Maine can be seen as a responsible and sustainable option, as it produces a valuable resource without any environmental harm to the local area.

Additionally, the waste rock generated by lithium mining in Maine can be repurposed for other applications such as crushed stone for roads, rail, and construction projects. This

means that the waste rock from lithium mining can be used to support the infrastructure needs of the state, making it a more sustainable option than simply disposing of the waste rock.

It's important to keep in mind the issue of "blood batteries" mentioned earlier. While mining pegmatites in Maine can provide a domestically sourced and more sustainable option for lithium production, it's important to also consider the global supply chain and the potential human rights abuses involved in the mining of other minerals used in battery production. It's important for companies to have ethical and responsible supply chain practices to ensure that they are not contributing to these issues.

In conclusion, mining pegmatites for lithium in Maine can provide significant environmental benefits and support the transition to cleaner energy sources. The waste rock generated by mining can also be repurposed for other applications, making it a more sustainable option. However, it's important to also consider the larger global supply chain and ensure that companies have ethical and responsible practices to avoid contributing to human rights abuses. Thank you for listening.

Best Regards,


Joseph E. Martin

Rumford Point, Maine