

Public Comments, Neither For Nor Against, LD 1363, LD 1433, LD 1476, LD 1508, LD 1471, LD 1495 and LD1564

Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee

My Name is Lewis Kingsbury and I am a resident of Nobleboro, Maine

I was very surprised to see the above seven bills seeking to change the metallic minerals mining statutes come before the ENR committee. These bills are seemingly being rushed through the public hearing process without adequate time set aside for proper vetting.

Metallic minerals mining is a highly contentious issue in Maine and was debated in this committee for six years before being resolved in 2017 by the passage of LD 820 (SP 265) "An Act to Protect Maine's Clean Water and Taxpayers from Mining Pollution" (see attached).

Key portions of LD 820 were enacted to ensure safe metallic mining approaches and handling of the toxic waste to protect Maine vital water resources. Other elements of the bill addressed mining waste disposal and the protection of Maine's taxpayers from footing the bill for waste remediation if the mining company went bankrupt.

LD 820 survived a governor's veto by override vote, being unanimously passed in the senate 35-0 and overwhelmingly passed in the house 122-21 with 7 absent and 1 excused (see attached). This vote reflected the wishes and will of the people represented then, and remains the same today.

It is vitally important that these core elements within the statutes remain intact to protect the interests of all Maine citizens. Please take a step back and consider the ramifications of making drastic changes to the current mining laws. Maine's environmental and taxpayer future rests in your hands.

Respectfully

Lewis Kingsbury
Nobleboro, Maine
207-841-1334