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## Maine Indoor Air Quality Council Testimony in Support of LD 1073: An Act to Amend Provisions of the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act to Advance Health Equity and Improve the Well-being of Vulnerable Populations

The Maine Indoor Air Quality Council ("MIAQC" or the "Council") is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to creating healthy, productive, and environmentally sustainable indoor environments in Maine through education, communications, and advocacy. We are a membership organization of diverse professionals who design, construct, operate, maintain, investigate and remediate buildings of all types, as well as a broad variety of public health and environmental health professionals and practitioners.

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

The Maine Indoor Air Quality Council supports LD 1073 specifically for its provisions to both reduce airborne pollutants from mining activities and to assess the presence of vulnerable populations who may be more at risk from exposure to these pollutants. We recognize that outdoor air pollutants can infiltrate indoor spaces and stay there for extended periods of time, especially during temperature inversions (cooler air trapped by warmer air), which is a common, sometimes everyday occurrence. Indoor air <u>is</u> outdoor air.

The U.S. EPA indicates that as a society we spend 97% of our time indoors, and for vulnerable populations, such as the elderly, the very young, and those with chronic illness, that percentage is closer to 100%. Even though pollutants may be airborne outdoors, individuals in indoor environments may have greater exposure to them.

Other provisions of this bill fall outside of the purview and mission of the MIAQC.

Representatives of the Council can be available for the work session to answer any questions or provide further comment.

Respectfully submitted by:

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