

Arleigh Kraus
Warren
LD 1363

In Opposition to LD 1363 An Act to Support Extraction of Common Minerals by Amending the Maine Metallic Minerals Act

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich and the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources my name is Arleigh Kraus I am a registered cannabis caregiver with a B.S. in biochemistry, an organic farmer, and business owner in Warren. I am a board member of Maine based Citizens against Residential Mining Activities (CARMA) and a concerned citizen scientist.

I am testifying today in opposition to LD 1363 for several reasons.

Firstly, the push to make open pit mining of spodumene legal without factoring in health and environmental impacts without rigorous scientific analysis is gross negligence.

The blind rush for existing lithium deposits to be extracted for use in batteries and electrical components lacks foresight. Technology is evolving at a rapid pace and lithium may not even be the metal required for batteries in the near future. For example, in the past 10 years lightbulb technology has evolved from halogen to compact fluorescent bulbs to light emitting diodes (LED) all in a very short span of time. The metals used in lightbulbs has rapidly changed in a minor span of time. Why are we rushing to extract a metal from the land which has devastating lasting consequences for the environment. This is not NIMBYism. This is common sense questioning. Lasting consequences does not mean a decade of toxic waste, it means thousands of years of contaminated land and water.

I urge you to vote ought not to pass.

Respectfully, Arleigh A. Kraus