

From: [David Betts](#)
To: [DEP, MiningComments2016](#)
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Weakening and tweaking mining rules is a tacit admission that mining is not, or as, profitable without condoning and acceding to environmental damage. Even if such a thing as perfect mining rules existed and mining operations were perfectly executed, reclamation can never truly restore what was destroyed.

There are no open pit or high-volume underground extraction mines that do not have a high environmental cost. No matter how many rules are formulated or tax dollars spent on mining oversight, the end result is a significant impact to the biological health of the impacted area.

Globally we face an ongoing crisis in biodiversity. Species are in decline or disappearing primarily due to an ever-expanding human footprint resulting from development, agricultural expansion and practices, over-use of water resources, over-reliance on fossil fuels, and resource extraction such as mining. All of those activities result in the lost or degraded habitat required to maintain biodiversity.

The history of mining has been one of privatization of profit and socialization of costs. Taxpayers pay to monitor mines, we pay legal costs when enforcement devolves into court battles, we are on the hook for enormous long-term clean-up costs--all while degrading the environment which is Maine's strongest and most valuable asset. Mining is senseless for the State of Maine and it's citizens. We do not need a future Super Fund site.

David & Sharon Betts
Industry, Maine