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On behalf of Aroostook Timberlands, LLC

125th Maine Legislature
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HP 1371, LD 1853

**An Act to Improve Environmental Oversight and Streamline Permitting
for Mining in Maine**

Committee Amendment "A"

Sec. 1 is amended as follows:

§490-CCC. Definitions

7. Mining area. "Mining area" means an area of land described in the permit application and subject to approval by the Department from which earth material is removed in connection with nonferrous metallic mineral mining, together with those lands that are reasonably necessary for mining, including land for the storage or disposal of waste rock, tailings, ore, topsoil or other materials, land for beneficiation, processing or treatment of ore, and land for groundwater and surface water management and treatment systems~~the lands on which material from that mining, including waste rock, is stored or deposited, the lands on which beneficiating or treatment plants and auxiliary facilities are located, including groundwater and surface water management and treatment systems, the lands on which the water reservoirs used in the nonferrous metallic mineral mining process are located, and auxiliary lands that are used in connection with the mining.~~

§490-EEE. Mining permit; application procedure

4. Criteria for approval. Subject to subsection (3), the department shall approve a mining permit whenever it finds the following:

C. Soil types. The mining operation will be built on soil types that are suitable to the nature of the mining operation. ~~In making this determination the department shall presume that a mining operation located over or adjacent to a naturally occurring nonferrous metallic mineral deposit meets this criterion.~~

D. Ground and surface water. There is reasonable assurance that discharges of pollutants from the project will not violate applicable state water quality standards. Discharges to groundwater may occur within the mining area, but such discharges may not result in groundwater beyond

the mining area exceeding water quality standards and the Department must require groundwater monitoring as close as practicable to the boundary of the mining area.

F. Flooding. The activity will not unreasonably cause or increase the flooding of the alteration area or adjacent properties nor create an unreasonable flood hazard to any structure. Mine facilities may be placed in flood plains or flood hazard areas provided that they are designed, constructed, operated and reclaimed in a manner that complies with this criterion. This criterion shall not prohibit the placement of mining waste, stockpiles, ore leaching operations, and tailings impoundments within flood hazard zones and floodplains.