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**Subject:** Proposed Mining Rules  
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To Whom It may Concern:

Again, the proposed mining rules are inadequate to protect the quality of our life here in Maine.

And, once again, the rules appear to benefit the few (primarily, out-of-state companies) at the cost of doing real damage to the environment for those of us who live here. Tailings impoundments lead to water pollution, which can poison drinking water for all of us animals – humans, fish, deer, foxes, rabbits, etc. Maine relies heavily on its tourist industry and keeping our water as pure as possible is a good way to guarantee that visitors will continue to feel welcome here.

Mining companies who are given permits should have to make a deposit before beginning operations to cover the cost of problems their mining might cause. The tailings impoundments are just one of several major problems that might arise.

In summary, the mining rules need to be made stricter as well as giving enough power to the regulatory agencies overseeing the projects.

Yours truly,

Joan Britton