My name is Kathy Cerick. I am a resident and registered voter in Atkinson, Maine. I moved to Maine because of the beauty and health of this beautiful state. The health of our state depends on many things - most importantly the water which runs through our rivers, streams, lakes and ponds.

Frivolous lawsuits are universally frowned upon because they are a waste of taxpayers dollars and a waste of time that could be better spent elsewhere. Are you not tired of the frivolous requests to approve rules that are being submitted to you by, I assume, the attorneys who work for and are paid by J.D. Irving, the company that wants to mine Bald Mountain? Isn't there a better way for the Board of the Environmental Protection, the ENR and our elected representatives to spend their time than pouring over hundreds of pages of scientific jargon yet another time only to be told by the people of Maine who you you are charged with protecting that we do not want mining in Maine unless we are guaranteed that it is safe for our health and the health of our rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, not to mention the health of our economy which depends on clean waters.

I have attended and testified at several hearings of the ENR regarding proposed mining rules. I have witnessed hundreds of citizens as well as several environmental and sporting groups giving testimony requesting that the ENR not approve the proposed rules because they do not protect our most precious resource. Without clean water, we have nothing. Polluted water will kill our economy and will make us sick and kill us before our time. What will be left in the state of Maine? Our once beautiful mountains, rivers and streams will be a wasteland filled with toxic water where neither fish nor humans can exist.

Please vote no to this latest submission for mining rules and request that the next round of proposed rules truly protects us Mainers and our home.

Sincerely, Kathryn Cerick 120 Sweet Cemetary Road Atkinson, Maine 04426 207-564-0280