

**From:** [charles fitzgerald](#)  
**To:** [DEP, MiningComments2016](#)  
**Subject:** Mining rules  
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To the Maine Department of Environmental Protection,

I am totally confounded by your recent attempts to resurrect rule making pursuant to the 2012 mining law when both the House and the Senate have so resoundingly rejected (twice) your proposed rules. To come back again with another proposal while totally ignoring the obvious - that the 2012 law is flawed and must be repealed - is an affront to the collective intelligence of those Mainers who are either qualified or who have worked long and hard to understand the hazards of metallic mineral mining of the high sulfide deposits in this state. These folks and concerned organizations have joined forces in an effort to convince you that rules, or no rules, mining under the present law is extremely likely to cause contamination of ground water, streams, lakes and rivers, irremediable for thousands of years.

We have labored long to understand acid rock drainage, wet waste storage, and arsenic. We understand that no mining company is willing to set aside sufficient sequestered funds to remediate a worst case scenario. We also understand that even with sufficient funds, that, like the Callahan Mine, remediation is almost impossible even with superfund status where you and I will pick up the tab.

We have come to all the hearings and spoken out - we have submitted thousands of pages of testimony, and some of us have retained scientific expertise to put before you reports that show the overwhelming likelihood of mining failure.

We have expressed to you the huge and growing economic and environmental values of the last area east of the Mississippi, more than 15,000 square miles, free of industrial development, the headwaters of all Maine's major rivers and you have ignored us.

What can we do to persuade you to make the obvious decision - to stop trying to set the stage for the environmental degradation of Maine's north woods by repealing the existing mining law and legally guaranteeing that no mining will take place unless there is a proven technology that will eliminate the risk of contamination.

There is no need for us to submit more thousands of pages of testimony. Just re-read the testimony submitted to date - but this time, read it with comprehension. Do not insult us by ignoring it as you have consistently done in the past.

Make no mistake about it, we, the people of Maine, will not allow you to destroy our heritage.

Sincerely,  
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