

From: [Joss, Donna](#)
To: [DEP, MiningComments2016](#)
Subject: Proposed mining regulations
Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2016 10:10:04 PM

- I am a resident of Maine, hold a doctoral degree in health education and am a mother and grandmother. Most of my life has been dedicated to protecting and improving the health and well-being of my patients, students, family and other vulnerable people.
- My education and experience have taught me that a great majority of health problems originate with the environment, either the natural or the man-made environment.
- I am writing to oppose the proposed new rules on metallic mining based on my concerns about the health of the people of Maine and the health of our natural environment.
- Specifically, I oppose the proposed rules for the following reasons:
 - these rules would allow mining near, on and under some of the most beautiful Public Reserved land in Maine, putting these rare and revered places in danger of contamination and desecration, for the profits of a private company;
 - the proposed rules would further add to the already excessive burden on human health caused by zinc, copper, arsenic, lead and mercury. Toxic concentrations of zinc and copper are still found today at the Callahan Mine Corp. site in Brooksville in spite of the millions of dollars being spent for clean-up;
 - the proposed rules allow for smelting and processes like sintering and calcining that generate extremely toxic, fine heavy metal particles that can travel miles and miles beyond the mine sites and poison air and water, having a lasting negative impact on the health of humans and animals;
 - the rules would allow tailings impoundments, the most dangerous type of mine waste disposal processes. These contain toxic mine waste and chemicals in huge quantities of water. These dams fail, and eighty percent of failures occur during the active life of mines.
 - the rules would leave Maine taxpayers on the hook for mining disasters, which happen far too often. Maine should not allow any company to mine that isn't willing to pay up front for the cost of a potential disaster. Mining disasters frequently cost hundreds of millions

of dollars to clean up,

- In my opinion, any new rules should include the following protections for human and environmental health:
- No open pit mines
- No toxics may remain on, or in land or water
- Mine companies must show liability insurance to pay for possible medical problems resulting from the effects on health of the mining process or residues,
- Air quality standards must be strengthened to address the harm posed by particulates produced by mining
- There must be no smelting, sintering, calcining or briquetting.

Please consider these concerns when making your decisions regarding the proposed new metallic mining rules.

Sincerely,

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