

**Shelly Mountain  
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Chairman Parker, members of the Board of Environmental Protection, my name is Shelly Mountain. I live in Mapleton, and I have a camp on Portage Lake, one of the water ways of the Fish River chain which will be polluted by mining Bald Mountain.

I write this to oppose the proposed mining rules because they do not improve protection of the environment over the 1991 rules which now govern the permitting of a mine. In a letter to John Martin in September 2012, one of the original geologists to explore Bald Mountain. J. S. Cummings, stated: "It appears that if the Irving group proceeds and acquires the necessary permits, they intend to mine the hard-rock copper zinc concentrations at Bald Mountain by means of a large open-pit. This scenario is a prescription for a **debacle** [emphasis in original], meaning either that the permits may never be granted, or if such are granted then undoubtedly there will be unwarranted environmental problems down the road."

I have travelled to Augusta several times to oppose these rules that remain essentially the same. Each time the overwhelming majority of testifiers clearly state that they want very strong rules that will protect the environment. Each time this Board and the Department of Environmental Protection ignores the will of the people and approves rules that do not do that. The rules before you today are essentially the same as the ones people have testified in opposition to all those other times.

I resent that we are continually forced to travel to Augusta, at great personal expense, to repeat ourselves. I resent that I have to take time from my busy schedule to find new ways to say the same thing, which is that I want my children to inherit an earth that my generation did everything we could to protect so that they could enjoy it in the way that I have. I want them to be able to recreate on and make a living off it.

I will repeat that these rules do not prevent contamination of the Fish River Chain. They do not prevent contamination of the air. They do not protect taxpayers from the inevitable expenses of perpetual maintenance of a toxic waste site. There are no examples of open pit mine sites that have been successfully closed. None. There is no magical, modern technology that wipes clean the disastrous effects of a mine like the one being proposed at Bald Mountain. There is not a way to accurately calculate the cost of clean-up from a catastrophic failure so I am not reassured by the fantasy of a trust fund.

The Department of Environmental Protection is submitting for the third time in as many years rules that do not protect the environment I cherish and want to pass on to my children. All of the opportunities for the people of Aroostook County to express their opposition happen many

miles from their homes on weekdays when we are working. It has finally happened to me that I am unable to attend today. I don't think this repetition is a good use of anyone's time. I question whether this is actually about crafting good rules that will protect the environment. It appears to be more about wearing down the opposition in order to make it possible for Irving to do whatever it wants. With these rules it seems like the desires of the corporate land owners of Bald Mountain are the priority of the BEP and not the environment.