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Subject: BEP question/comment
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To: BEP
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Question or Comment

Board of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
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August 17, 2016

Dear Chairman Parker, and members of the BEP

Mining is a risky business. We enter into mining at our own peril.

The BEP must act to protect the waters of the State of Maine and our commitment to the Clean Water Act as required by federal law. The DEP rule proposed does not meet performance based, nor best practice mining technology that uses proven technology for environmental security as was required by statute. It also does not require adequate nor important preventative measures that ascertain no negative environmental impact going forward. It is an industry support based set of rules that leave the Maine taxpayer and downstream habitants at severe risk of pollutant contamination. In addition, there is neither vetting of financial security of the mining company set up nor a requirement of escrow payments to prevent the taxpayers damage due to improper closing of mines nor repair and mediation of mining pollution.

A simple and complete standard of adherence to best practice, best technology and best knowledge for attainment of an environmental security standard of no off site degradation and no on site groundwater pollution must be required. A statutorily mandated independent panel of experts to vet all deposits for suitability of development and review of applications for development to assure standards of best practice, best knowledge, best proven technology must be included as well.

The proposed DEP regulations do not adequately protect the people of the State of Maine. Please vote NO to allowing a public hearing on these rules. There needs to be sufficient clarity that future explorations of economic development possibilities be in the best interest of the PEOPLE of the state of Maine. Leaving taxpayers holding the bag on mining clean up is what we know from the past, leaving little to no recourse. Taxpayers should not be held liable so an industry can plunder our resources with an open door exit to take their profit and run. The BEP is our backstop to preventing such an occurrence.

Thank you for taking your responsibility seriously in examining the impact of rule making on all of us. Our waters while abundant are at severe risk already, please attend to best practices to protect them for our progeny.

Sincerely,

Becky Layton Bartovics

Chair, Executive Committee