

## Carr, Tim

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**From:** Webb, Shevenell  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 4:25 PM  
**To:** Carr, Tim  
**Cc:** Stratton, Robert D; Perry, John  
**Subject:** RE: Eastern Wolf in T6 R6 WELS - Wolfden Mining Proposal, LUPC ZP779A

Hi Tim,

Thanks for reaching out. We are aware of limited public reports of possible wolves in the area, but to date, no physical evidence suggests the presence of wolves. All the photos and videos we have received are consistent with eastern coyotes. Please reach out if you have further questions.

Cheers, Shevenell

**Shevenell Webb**  
Wildlife Biologist  
Game Research & Management Section

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife  
353 Water St, SHS 41  
Augusta, ME 04333-0041  
Office #: 207-287-8776  
[mefishwildlife.com](http://mefishwildlife.com) | [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/mefishwildlife) | [twitter](https://twitter.com/mefishwildlife)

*Correspondence to and from this office is considered a public record and may be subject to a request under the Maine Freedom of Access Act. Information that you wish to keep confidential should not be included in email correspondence.*

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**From:** Carr, Tim <Tim.Carr@maine.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 6, 2023 12:49 PM  
**To:** Stratton, Robert D <Robert.D.Stratton@maine.gov>; Webb, Shevenell <Shevenell.Webb@maine.gov>; Perry, John <John.Perry@maine.gov>  
**Subject:** Eastern Wolf in T6 R6 WELS - Wolfden Mining Proposal, LUPC ZP779A

Hi Bob, John, and Shevenell,

LUPC recently received the attached comment from Ken Smith of Mt. Chase regarding the presence of Eastern Wolves in T6 R6 WELS and the Pickett Mountain Mine proposal (ZP779A) that is before the Land Use Planning Commission.

It would be helpful to the Commission to have a comment on this from IFW if possible. The timeline is a bit short as the record for the project closes on Thursday, Nov. 9 at 11:59 pm.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Tim

**Tim Carr**

Senior Planner

Land Use Planning Commission

22 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0022

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Email: [tim.carr@maine.gov](mailto:tim.carr@maine.gov)



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: Maine Relay 711

## **Lori K. Gramlich**

154 Temple Ave.

Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064

Phone: (207) 232-1067

[lori.gramlich@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:lori.gramlich@legislature.maine.gov)

### **Statement in Opposition to Wolfden Mining Proposal**

#### **Rebuttal Comments for ZP779A – Application for Zone Change Pickett Mountain Mine**

**November 9, 2023**

Members of the Land Use Planning Commission, my name is Lori Gramlich. I am the Maine State Representative for the town of Old Orchard Beach, and I serve as House chair of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. I have followed this proceeding closely, including by attending the evening public comment session in Bangor and reviewing materials in the record.

I urge you to deny Wolfden's application and request that you consider these rebuttal comments.

I oppose a mine at Pickett Mountain for many reasons, including: 1) the proposed mine represents a major risk to the water quality, fisheries and the environment in the Katahdin Region; 2) the proposed mine would be located in an area that holds important historical and cultural significance for the Wabanaki Tribes; 3) Wolfden Resources has no track record of building or operating a mine, let alone building a mine that would need to meet the highest environmental standards in the world; and 4) the risk that Maine taxpayers would be stuck with clean-up and closure costs following the mine's closure is too high.

For the purpose of these comments, I would like to address and refute the claim made in the public record for this application that building Wolfden's proposed mine would reduce child labor at mines in Africa. This is patently untrue and nothing more than a scare tactic.

Both during the LUPC hearings and in written comments, members of the public have made claims such as the following:

“We should not have to rely on foreign countries, using child labor, to mine these elements for us.” (Written Testimony from Edwin Macarthur, Volume 1 pg. 238)

“[D]o we want women and children in Africa in bare feet mining cobalt? You have a choice here today whether it's between those mines or these mines.” (Jason Bornstein,

October 16, 2023 public testimony; October 16 public comment session transcript, pg. 41)

The use of child labor is a serious problem at cobalt mines in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)<sup>1</sup> and open pit gold mines in multiple African nations<sup>2</sup>, but that has nothing to do with a proposed zinc and copper mine in Maine. If Wolfden’s mine were approved, built and operated, it would not reduce the number of children being exploited in African mines. There is no basis for the claim that Maine “has a choice between those mines and these mines.”

This is true for several reasons.

First, there is no cobalt in the Pickett Mountain deposit, so the mine would have no impact on cobalt mining practices in Africa.

Second, the U.S. is the world’s fifth largest zinc producer<sup>3</sup> (after China, Peru, Australia, and India) and the fifth largest zinc exporter<sup>4</sup> (after Australia, Peru, Turkey and Bolivia). The Pickett Mountain deposit is so small that it would make no difference in these rankings. Thus, it would not affect zinc mining practices in the other countries.

Third, the U.S. is the world’s fifth largest producer of gold, ahead of any African nation.<sup>5</sup> Wolfden Vice President of Project Development Jeremy Ouellette testified that zinc and copper were the primary metals of interest, along with “a little bit of gold.”<sup>6</sup> If the amount is so trivial, it would have no impact on gold mine operations anywhere.

The bottom line: A mine at Pickett Mountain would be so small that it would not lower demand for metals from Africa or anywhere else, and thus it would have no impact on the use of child labor.

I urge the LUPC to ignore the false and disingenuous statements that building a mine at Pickett Mountain is somehow the “responsible” choice we need to make to reduce child labor overseas. There is no evidence to support this claim.

Rather, the responsible course of action for Maine is to deny Wolfden’s application. The LUPC has more than sufficient reasons to do so.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel welcome to contact me with any questions.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/drc-mining-industry-child-labor-and-formalization-small-scale-mining>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/reports/child-labor/list-of-goods-print?tid=All&field\\_exp\\_good\\_target\\_id=5803&field\\_exp\\_exploitation\\_type\\_target\\_id\\_1=All&items\\_per\\_page=10#:~:text=According%20to%20a%20report%20by,under%20conditions%20of%20forced%20labor.](https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/reports/child-labor/list-of-goods-print?tid=All&field_exp_good_target_id=5803&field_exp_exploitation_type_target_id_1=All&items_per_page=10#:~:text=According%20to%20a%20report%20by,under%20conditions%20of%20forced%20labor.)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.statista.com/statistics/264634/zinc-production-by-country/#:~:text=In%202022%2C%20China's%20zinc%20mines,the%20world%20in%202022%2C%20respectively.>

<sup>4</sup> <https://wits.worldbank.org/trade/comtrade/en/country/ALL/year/2020/tradeflow/Exports/partner/WLD/product/260800>

<sup>5</sup> See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_countries\\_by\\_gold\\_production](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_gold_production).

<sup>6</sup> Jeremy Ouellette, testimony, evening public session, October 16, 2023.

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY  
LAND USE PLANNING COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF ZONING	)	
PETITION ZP 779A	)	
WOLFDEN MT. CHASE, LLC	)	APPLICANT’S REBUTTAL
APPLICATION FOR ZONE CHANGE,	)	TO PUBLIC COMMENTS
PICKET MOUNTAIN MINE	)	
T6 R6 WELS,	)	
PENOBSCOT COUNTY, MAINE	)	

Wolfden Mt. Chase, LLC (“Wolfden”) provides the following rebuttal to public comments. Wolfden notes that close to 2,000 pages of public comment were released on November 3 and 6, 2023. This filing is not intended to respond to all or even a substantial portion of those comments. Instead, this responds to examples of information that was wrong, particularly concerning Wolfden and its key representatives, or comments that raise issues that require additional context for a more complete and accurate understanding of the issue.

Mining Practices in West Africa

As discussed during the public hearing and in pre-filed testimony, Ron Little was the founder, President and CEO of Orezone Resources Inc. and Orezone Gold Corporation (collectively “Orezone”), with commercial gold mines located in Burkina Faso, West Africa. Several members of the public stated that practices at those mines utilized child labor, were unsafe, and generally reflected poorly on Mr. Little. Those statements are wrong. Orezone operated commercial mines in accordance with World Bank and Canadian standards, and it has been commended by representatives of the World Bank’s divisions for hiring, training, and providing safe jobs to local people.

Public comments related to the use of child labor and unsafe working conditions at mines in West Africa are likely referring to artisanal or small-scale mining, which is dangerous, labor intensive, utilizes primitive hand-held tools, and is part of an informal (and often underground) sector of the economy. The literature is replete with discussion of the hazards associated with and use of child labor in artisanal mines.<sup>1</sup> Those mines, however, bear no relationship to the mines operated by Mr. Little.

Moreover, in Burkina Faso, there is recognition by the United Nations and many NGOs of the significant benefits of commercial mining operations as compared to traditional artisanal mining. Orezone utilized state of the art mining techniques, had a strong environmental and humane health and safety track record, and invested in the community, significantly improving living conditions for the local population.

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<sup>1</sup> E.g., Human Rights Watch Report, *A Poisonous Mix, Child Labor, Mercury, and Artisanal Gold Mining in Mali*, December 6, 2011.

## Tribal Rights in Maine

Mr. Little was repeatedly criticized for stating that there are no tribal rights in Maine or that the lack of tribal rights streamlines mine permitting.

These statements were taken out of context. Mr. Little and Wolfden respect Tribal rights in Canada and the U.S. and share the values expressed by Tribal representatives during the public hearing. Mr. Little's statement referencing Tribal rights in Maine was intended to communicate to Canadian investors the difference between mine permitting in Canada and Maine. In Canada, mines are almost always permitted on government owned Crown Lands that may be close to or overlap ancestral First Nations (Tribal) lands. In all cases, First Nations communities in Canada are granted decision making authority by the Federal Government, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) must be agreed to between the Company and surrounding First Nations Community leaders prior to receiving a mining permit. The permitting process in the United States and Maine, including the role of the Tribes, is very different. Tribes in Maine participate in the permitting process, as the Penobscot Nation and Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, have done so here. There is not, however, a separate regulatory approval required. Mr. Little noted this difference for investors because Wolfden is a Canadian Company with a significant number of Canadian shareholders, but regrets the now obvious misinterpretation of his comments.

The Wolfden team is committed to working with the Tribes in a collaborative and constructive manner, and, as reflected in comments submitted by the Chief of the Pabineau First Nation in Canada attached as Exhibit A for reference, has a track record of doing so. Wolfden has been reaching out to Maine Tribes since 2019 and hopes to consult with them going forward.

## Claims by Jason Barrett

Mr. Barrett makes a number of false statements regarding Wolfden's involvement in exploring a site in Pembroke, Maine. Wolfden acquired the mineral rights to property that Mr. Barrett inherited from his father. The deed was recorded and Wolfden acted in accordance with those legal rights at all times. Mr. Barrett's father, for decades, had allowed access to his property for exploration. The property contains a previously mined open pit area and historic rock dumps. Mr. Barrett was initially cooperative and did not interfere with Wolfden's exercise of its rights, but subsequently became hostile. Wolfden was involved only in exploration activities, conducted such activities in accordance with their rights and all legal requirements, and has never proposed a mine on Mr. Barrett's property or anywhere in Pembroke.

## Dark Sky Impacts

Concerns about impacts to the night sky were raised by several members of the public. As stated in the public hearing, Wolfden has committed to following recommendations by Dark Sky International to ensure responsible and dark-sky compliant lighting. Additionally, as described in the application, transportation of ore from the site will occur during daylight hours and fixed lighting can be directed downward and hooded, all following the recommendations of

Dark Sky International and in compliance with LUPC lighting requirements. Some members of the public seemed to believe that the entire rezone area will be illuminated. That is not the case. Mining operations occur underground, and only the immediate above ground facilities will be lit. The map attached as Exhibit B shows a preliminary estimate of the locations of fixed lighting for the Project, which will be dark-sky compliant.

### ATV Trail 611F Closure

A written public comment by Michael Reddy, dated October 17, 2023, included the following: “As to impacts to recreational use. I’d like to report to the Commission that Trail 611F—the Pickett Mountain ATV trail on Wolfden’s property, was permanently closed this June.” This statement is wrong. As reflected on the map attached as Exhibit C, the Pickett Mountain Trail runs east to west, just South of Wolfden’s 7,135-acre property along the border of Mount Chase and T6 R6. Nearly the entirety of the trail runs across property that is not owned by Wolfden. In July 2023, the Patten ATV Club announced the closure of the trail. The Patten ATV Club has twice clarified on its Facebook page that Wolfden was not responsible for the closure, once in July 2023, and again in October 2023.

On October 11, 2023, it was called to the attention of the Patten ATV Club that the Pickett Mountain Rod and Gun Club had falsely stated on their website that Wolfden was responsible for the trail closure. As reflected in the communication included in Exhibit C, the Patten ATV Club immediately emailed the Pickett Mountain Rod and Gun Club to clarify that this was inaccurate. The Pickett Mountain Rod and Gun Club then removed the statement from its website.

Mr. Reddy also falsely claimed that Wolfden will close access to Pickett Pond. That is not true. There will be continued public access to Pickett Pond.

### Reference to EPA Study

Several public comments note that the EPA has concluded that metallic mining is the most toxic industry in the United States. To provide additional context, these statements are based on EPA data from the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) program, which “is a resource of learning about toxic chemical release and pollution prevention activities.”<sup>2</sup> It is important to note the limitations and significance of this data. For example, EPA includes the following disclosure on its website: “Please note that TRI data alone cannot reveal the degree to which the public is exposed to listed chemicals. The presence of a chemical in the environment must be evaluated along with the potential and actual exposures and the route of exposures, the chemical’s fate in the environment and other factors before any statements can be made about potential risks associated with the chemical or a release.”<sup>3</sup> In other words, TRI data should not be used to draw general conclusions about environmental or health risks.

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<sup>2</sup> EPA, *Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Program* (last updated Oct. 31, 2023), <https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program>.

<sup>3</sup> EPA, *Explore a Metal Mine that Reports to the TRI Program* (last updated Oct. 30, 2023), <https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/explore-metal-mine-reports-tri-program>.

Importantly, the majority of mines that report to TRI are not comparable to the Pickett Project. EPA has stated that most TRI reports from mining facilities occurred at open pit mines and are attributable to releases from leach pads and wet tailings impoundments.<sup>4</sup> All of these attributes are prohibited under Maine law, and none have been proposed as part of the Pickett Project.

### Surface Waters and Ponds

Many public comments reference the proximity of the Project to Class A and AA surface waters, as well as Atlantic salmon habitat and three state Heritage Fish Waters, Grass Pond, Pleasant Lake, and Mud Lake. We agree that these are important resources. Consistent with the stringent requirements of Maine's Mining law, the Project will implement measures to ensure there will be no adverse impacts to these resources. It is important to place these resources into context, as they are not unique to the Project area.

First, almost all of the surface waters in LUPC jurisdiction are Class A or AA. The maps attached as Exhibit D show the water classification of surface waters in the State. As reflected on that map, there are only a few locations (approximately 6% of the total area in LUPC jurisdiction) of Class B or C waters. If proximity to Class A or AA surface waters is a de facto prohibition on mining, then essentially the entirety of the jurisdiction is off-limits to mining.

Second, the referenced Heritage Fish Waters are three of more than 585 lakes and ponds identified by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife as meeting that definition (i.e., have not been stocked in the previous 25 years and support self-sustaining populations of brook trout or Arctic charr). It is a dynamic list that is reviewed and amended annually by rule, and it has generally increased over time.<sup>5</sup> For example, in the last 10 years more than thirty resources have been added. The map attached as Exhibit E shows the location of currently designated Heritage Fish Waters in the State.

Third, additional comments focus on Atlantic Salmon habitat. The entirety of the Penobscot Watershed has been designated as critical habitat for Atlantic Salmon. There is very little surveyed habitat in the watershed, and none of it is proximate to the Project. Comments from the Atlantic Salmon Federation focus on the drainage area near the project and *modeled* rearing habitat, citing the 2009 NOAA Biological Valuation. The comments erroneously state that "both the West Branch Mattawamkeag River immediately to the west and the inlet to Pickett Mountain Pond to the south of the proposed mine are 'Class 1' rearing habitat for salmon - the *highest* classification" (emphasis added).<sup>6</sup> In fact, Class 1 is the lowest classification,<sup>6</sup> characterized as marginally suitable.<sup>7</sup> Moreover, as shown on the map attached as Exhibit F, the entirety of the Penobscot Watershed contains modeled Atlantic Salmon Rearing habitat. Finally,

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<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> 09-CMR 137 c. 1-4.

<sup>6</sup> When describing how the habitat quality and quantity variables were aggregated to reach a final habitat ranking for a unit (100m<sup>2</sup>), the 2009 NOAA report provides "Scores of 1 or 2 were valued as "1", or low final habitat score." *Biological Valuation Biological Valuation of Atlantic salmon habitat within the Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment*, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, 2009, p. 40. [Biological Valuation of Atlantic Salmon Habitat Within the Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment - DocsLib](#)

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at 39.



Atlantic Salmon could not access modeled habitat in the Project area due the presence of the dam at Rockabema Lake shown on Exhibit F.

Source of Public Comments

Wolfden has updated the Pickett Public Comments Compilation map that it presented at the public hearing to reflect all the public comments released to date. The updated maps are attached as Exhibit G. These maps reflect written as well as oral comments. Comments by the same person are treated as a single comment. There were approximately 50 comments for which it was not possible to assign a geographic location, so those comments are not reflected on the maps. Of particular note: The majority of commenters from within the economic region support the Project; in contrast, opposition to the Project is centered in southern, Maine. Additionally, although not separately indicated on the maps, approximately 80% of the written comments in opposition to the Project were form letters.

Dated: November 9, 2023



Juliet T. Browne  
Maye C. Emlein  
Verrill Dana LLP  
1 Portland Square  
Portland, ME 04101  
(207) 774-4000  
Attorneys for Wolfden Mt. Chase, LLC

I, Jeremy Ouellette, hereby swear that the above testimony is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated: November 9, 2023



Jeremy Ouellette

# **EXHIBIT A**

1290 Pabineau Falls Road  
Pabineau First Nation NB  
E2A 7M3



September 29<sup>th</sup> , 2023

Dear Commissioners,

Let me first introduce myself, my name is terry Richardson and I am the Chief of Pabineau First Nation. A first Nation community in Northern New Brunswick a Mik' Maq community of 357 people. Prior to being elected Chief in 2020 I served as a Councillor in my community for 8 years and I was also able to be the Mik' Maq benefits Manager for Trevali mining which consisted of hiring and training First Nation members.

I am very familiar with mining operations, specifically those extracting zinc, lead and copper as the Bathurst area is one of Canada's oldest mining districts for these types of deposits. I have represented my community through agreements with mining companies and other industrial endeavors related to traditional land use and I continue to do so with more development occurring in our traditional land. These relationships between First Nations and industry are common place in Canada, however I appreciate that Wolfden's proposal to advance the Pickett project in Northern Maine is of great interest and concern to some residents in the area.

My intention of this letter is to provide character references for Wolfden employees with whom I have had a personal working relationship and to provide some background on my experiences with mining companies engagements. My intention is not to convince anyone who opposes the project to change his or her mind or to interject myself in a controversial process.

In Canada, partnerships are typically developed in the early stages of a project between First nations and mining companies to discuss concerns and collaborate on mutually beneficial initiatives related to exploration and then the mining operation itself. We have developed relationships with members of the Wolfden management team through the development of co-operation agreements that resulted in meaningful opportunities for my community as well as other surrounding First nation communities that benefited even though the mine was in my community's traditional territory. We are not a Myopic community and believe wealth should be shared.

My experience was one that communications was mutually respectful, and my community was able to develop employment, business opportunities and contracting work. I myself was involved in developing a training program in New Brunswick with several partnerships and it resulted in many First nation members becoming miners and many are still employed in the sector worldwide including my son who is working abroad.

I would engage with the Wolfden team in the future should an opportunity arise in our traditional territory in the future.

I realize that mining is in some cases very controversial. But the reality is as we move forward to a green Energy sector, the need for metals will grow and as well with China seeming to buy up all the precious metals in the world this is a dangerous time for democracies.

Although mining operations are required to abide by strict regulations across Canada and the United States, Maine has pulled "ahead of the pack", with its recent legislation in 2017. I believe that a company demonstrating it can meet or exceed these regulations could create a template for best practice that would or could be adopted in other jurisdictions, which could be a template for best practices. These are difficult times we have a need for more metals but we have a responsibility to ensure our environment is taken care of for our next seven generations that is the

native way.

Again, from my experience with Wolfden, it has been positive and I believe the rezoning approval and this will lead to economic opportunities and benefits for northern Maine. As well ensuring the regulations are followed and enforced will ensure minimal risk.

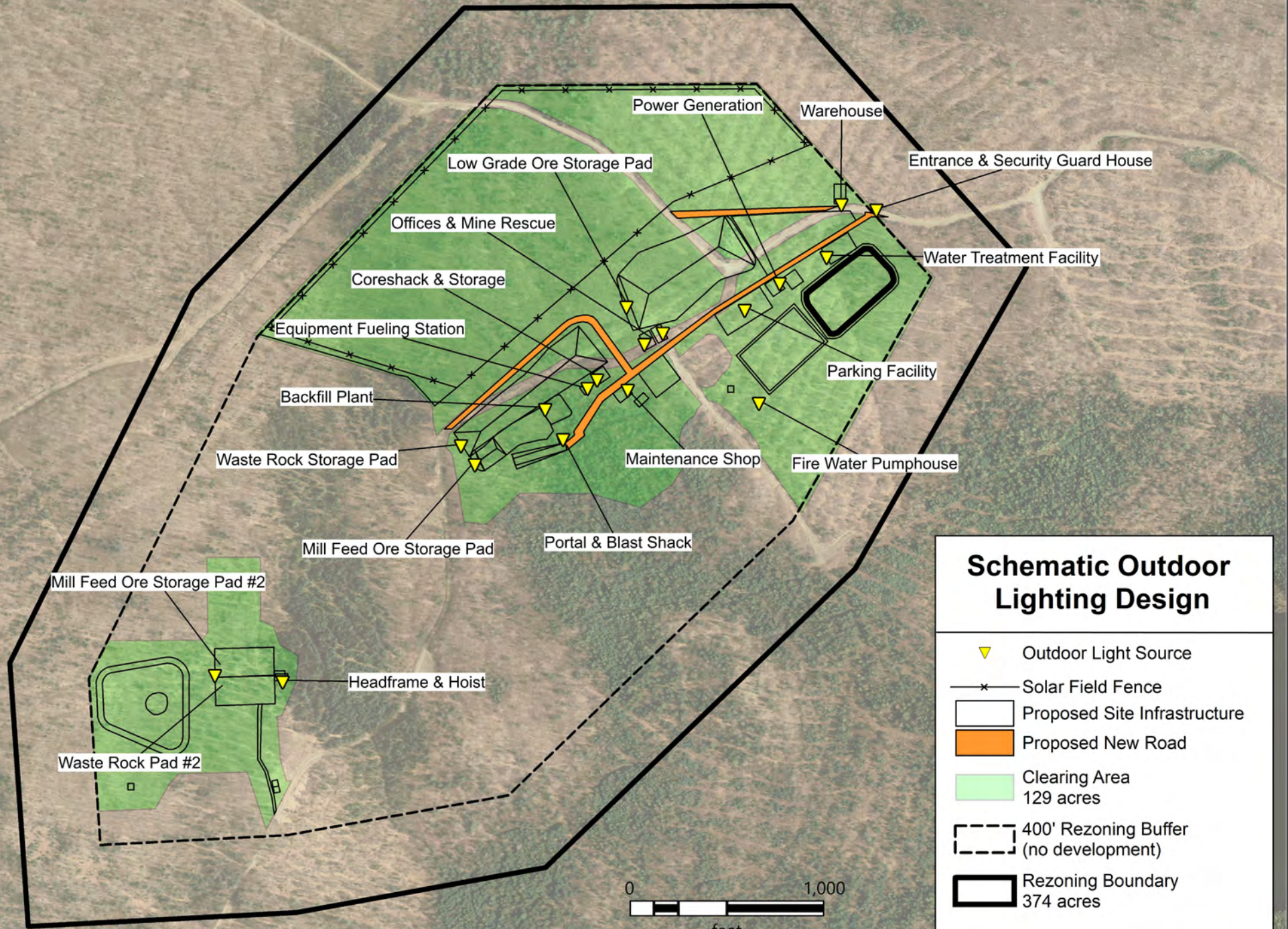
I thank you for taking the time to read my comments and I am available to discuss in more detail at any time....

Sincerely,

Terry Richardson  
Chief  
Pabineau First Nation  
1-506-987-9142



## **EXHIBIT B**

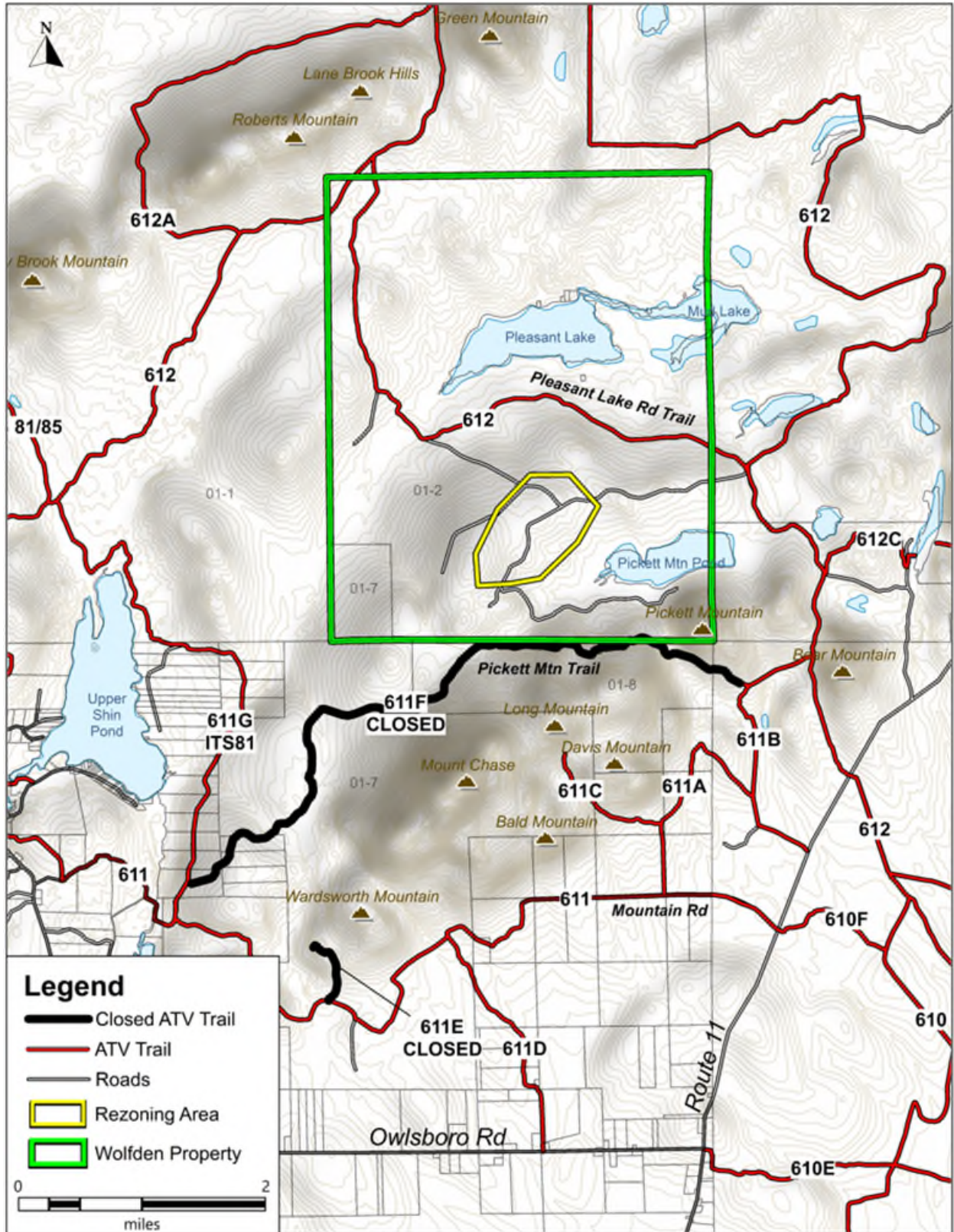


### Schematic Outdoor Lighting Design

- Outdoor Light Source
- Solar Field Fence
- Proposed Site Infrastructure
- Proposed New Road
- Clearing Area  
129 acres
- 400' Rezoning Buffer  
(no development)
- Rezoning Boundary  
374 acres



# **EXHIBIT C**





----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Pickett Mountain Rod and Gun Club** <[PickettRodandGun@proton.me](mailto:PickettRodandGun@proton.me)>

Date: Fri, Oct 13, 2023 at 2:49 PM

Subject: Re: atv trail

To: Dennis Brackett <[dbrackett@rsu89.org](mailto:dbrackett@rsu89.org)>

Thanks for info. We took it down.

[Pickett Mountain Rod and Gun Club](#)

Patten, Maine

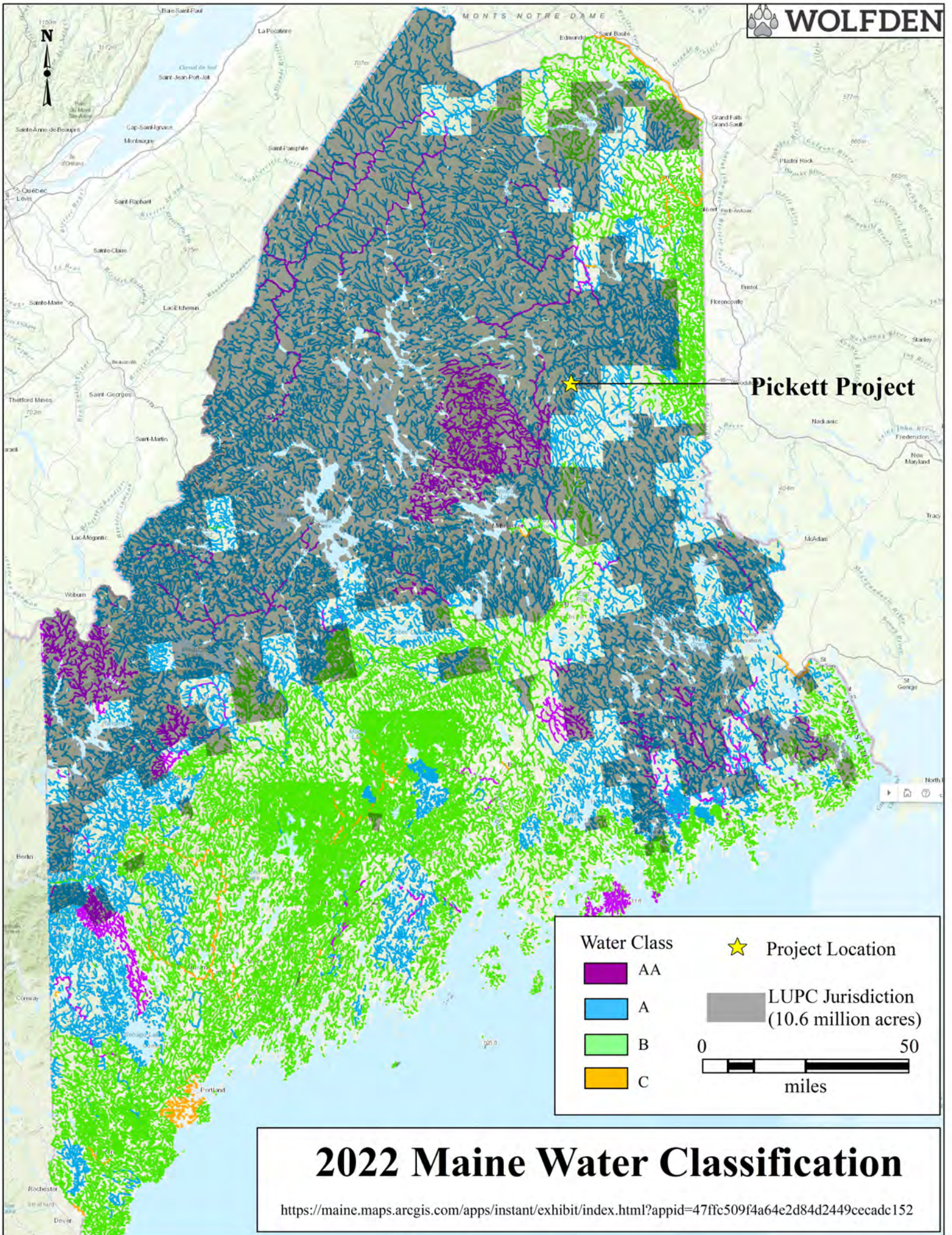
Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

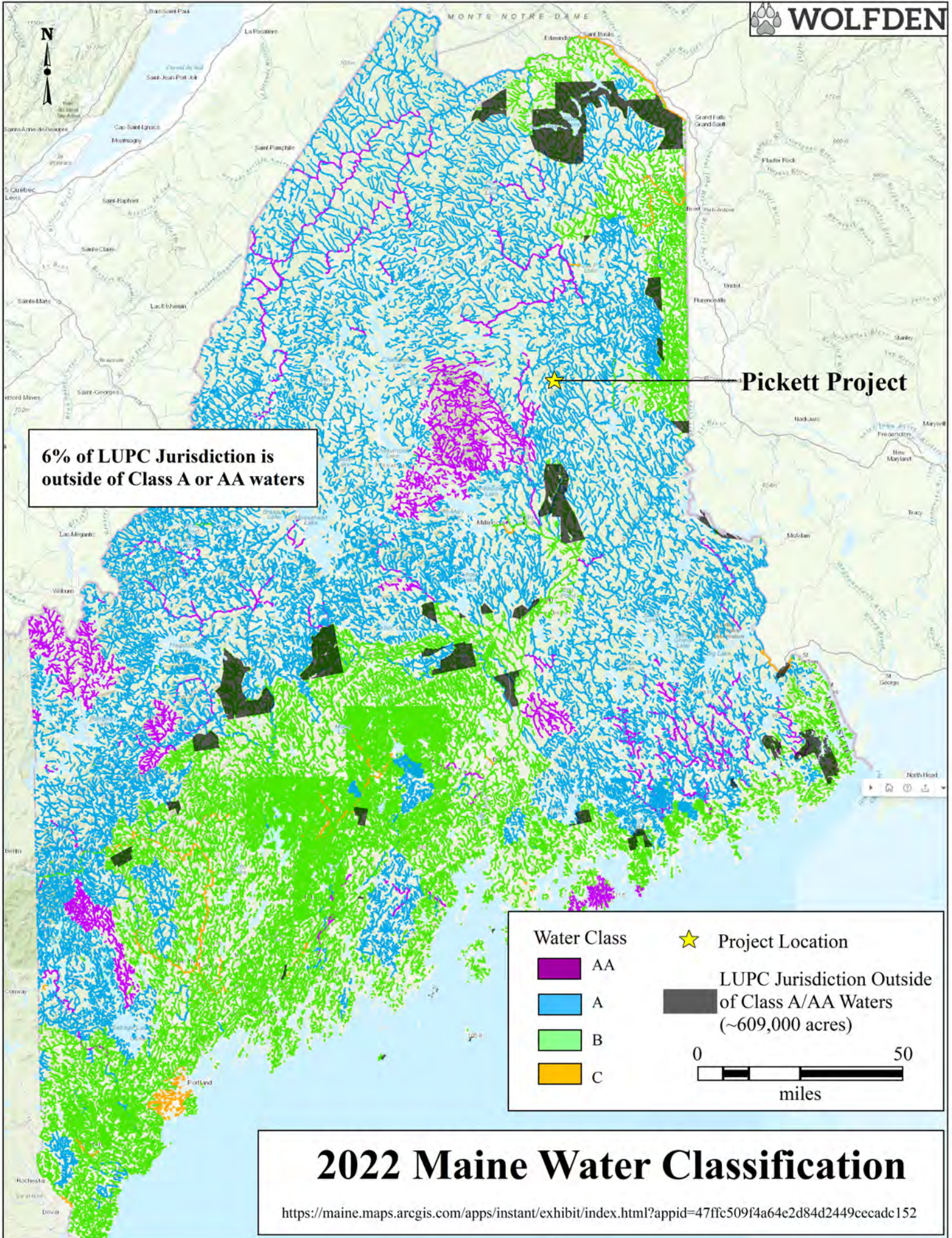
----- Original Message -----

On Wednesday, October 11th, 2023 at 1:00 PM, Dennis Brackett <[dbrackett@rsu89.org](mailto:dbrackett@rsu89.org)> wrote:

Just to make this clear wolf den did not close any trails they have been a great landowner to work with and PATTEN ATV is very thank full they allow us to have a trail on them. Please do not make statements that is not true thank you TRAILMASTER DEN 207 731 7931 if you have questions

## **EXHIBIT D**





6% of LUPC Jurisdiction is outside of Class A or AA waters

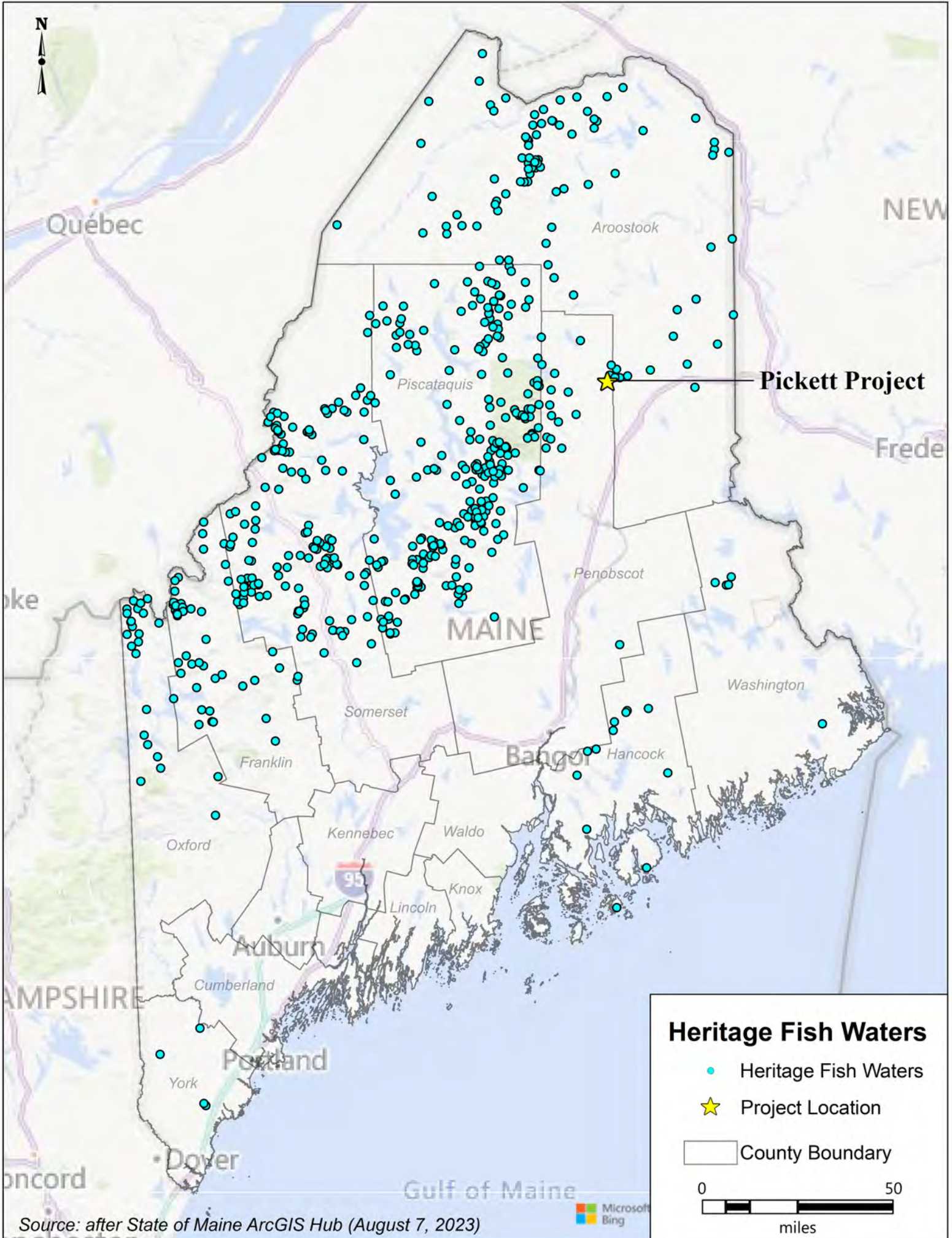
Pickett Project

Water Class	★ Project Location
AA	LUPC Jurisdiction Outside of Class A/AA Waters (~609,000 acres)
A	
B	
C	
	0 50 miles

# 2022 Maine Water Classification

<https://maine.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/exhibit/index.html?appid=47ffc509f4a64e2d84d2449cccad152>

# **EXHIBIT E**

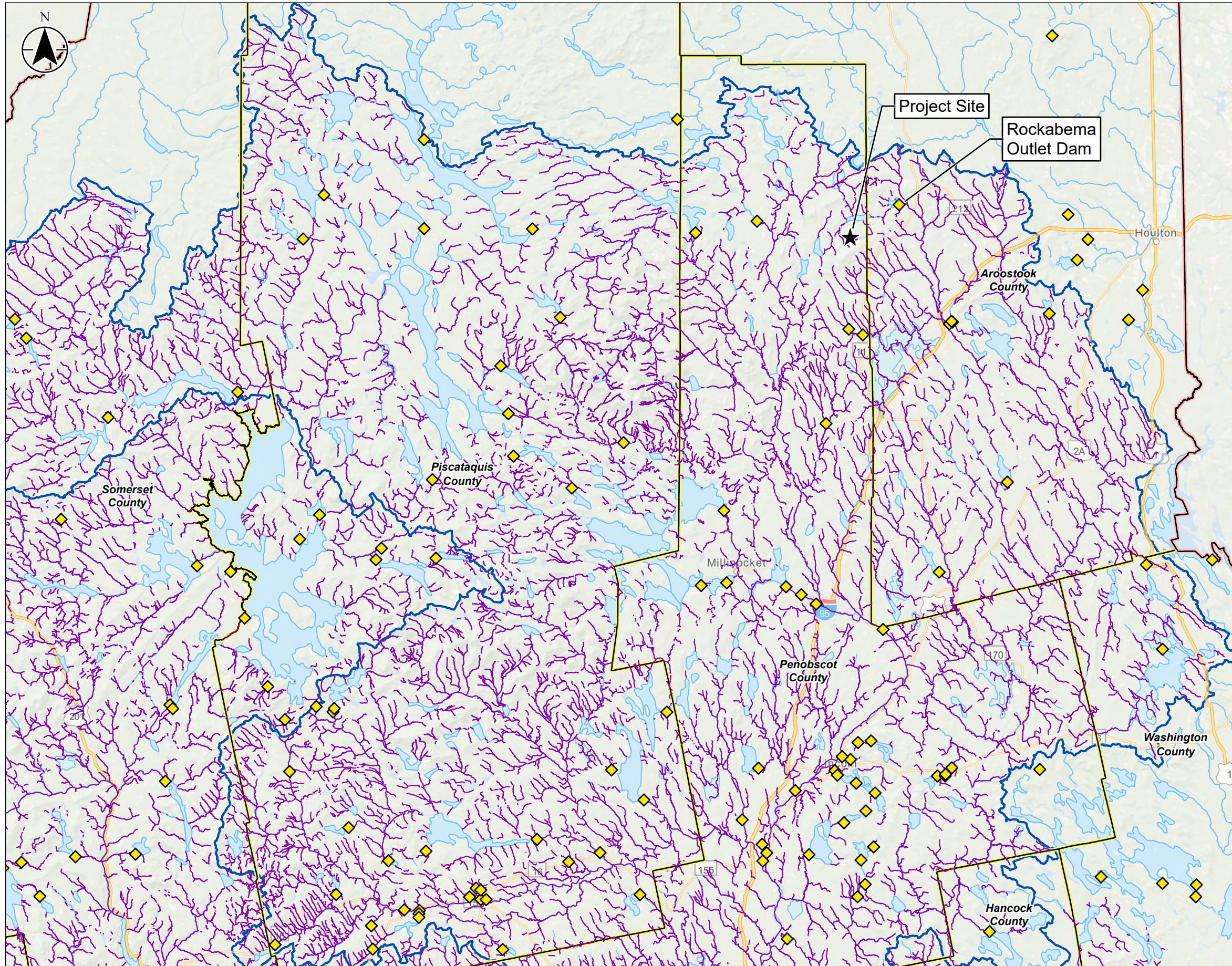


Source: after State of Maine ArcGIS Hub (August 7, 2023)

Microsoft  
Bing

# **EXHIBIT F**

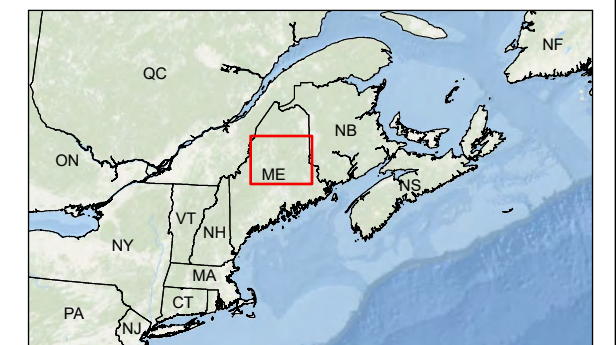
U:\195019502317\03\_data\gis\mxd\testimony\Archeological Testimony Maps\2023022317\_PickettSalmonHabitat.aprx Revised: 2023-11-09 By: goepentler



Legend

- ★ Pickett Mountain Mine Site
- ◆ Dam
- Modeled Atlantic Salmon Rearing Habitat
- River/Stream
- ▭ Lake/Pond
- ▭ Penobscot River Watershed
- ▭ County Boundary
- ▭ U.S./Canada Border

Notes  
 1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 19N  
 2. Data Sources: MEGIS, USGS, ESRI  
 3. Background: ESRI Work Ocean Base Map  
 0 10 Miles  
 (At original document size of 11x17)  
 1:633,600



Project Location: T6 R6 WELS, Maine  
 Prepared by GC on 2023-11-09  
 Reviewed by BB on 2023-11-09

Client/Project: Wolfden Resources Corporation  
 Pickett Mountain Metallic Mine Project  
 195602317

Figure No.

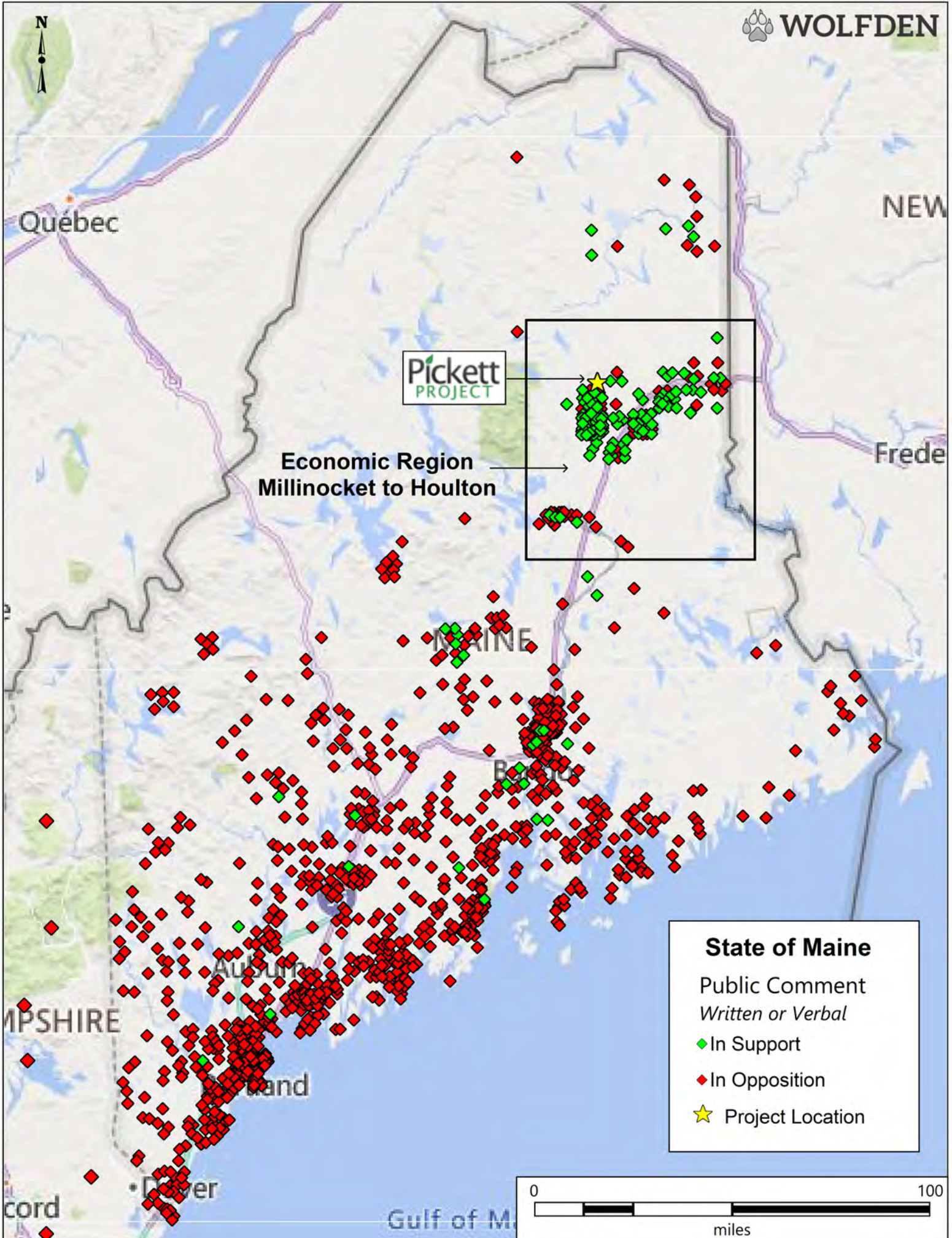
**1**

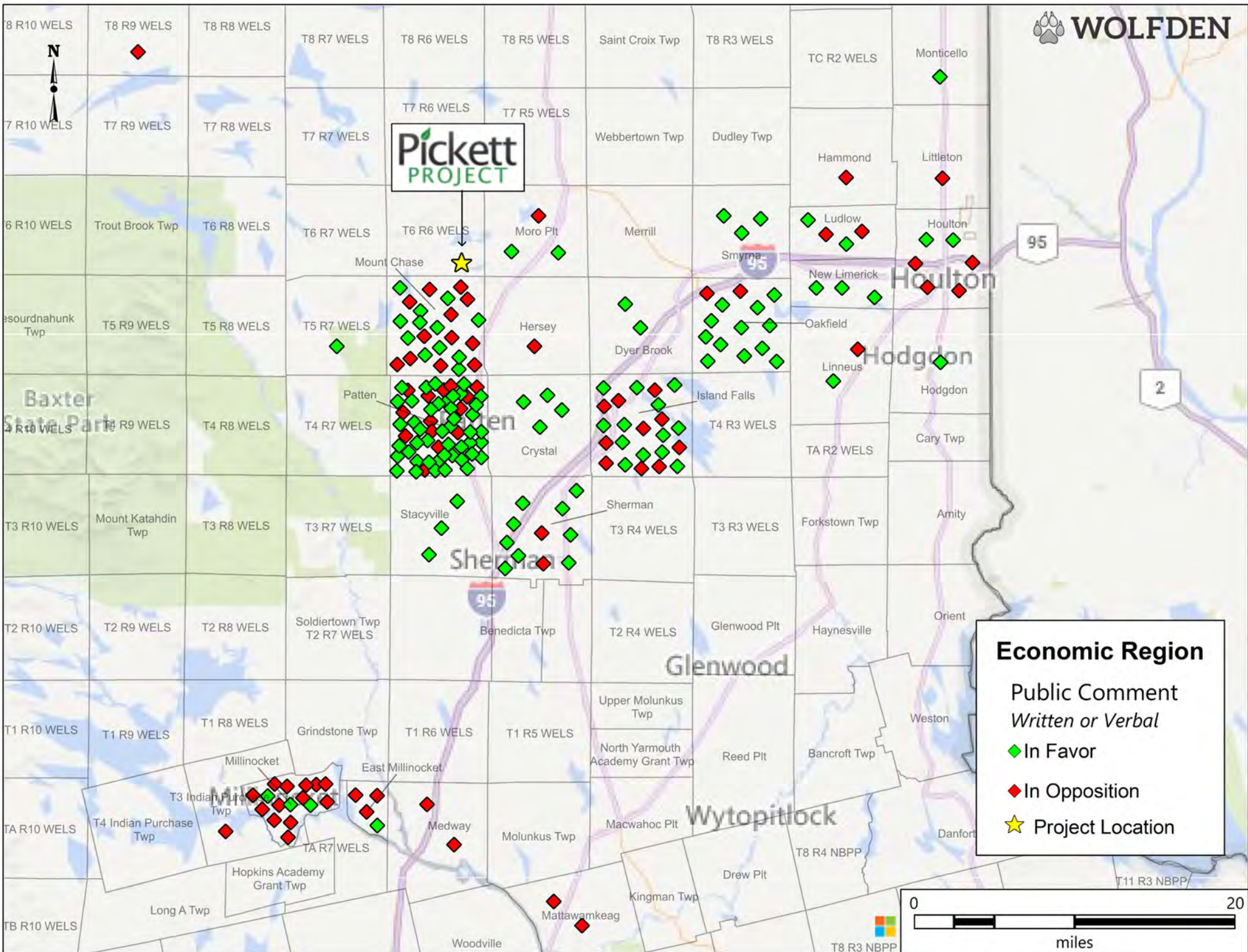
Title

**Modeled Atlantic Salmon Rearing Habitat**



# **EXHIBIT G**





**Carr, Tim**

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**From:** Dark Sky Maine <darksourcemaine@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 3:57 PM  
**To:** LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning  
**Subject:** Rebuttal on Wolfden Comments

**EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hello

This is a rebuttal on comments made on the Wolfden rezoning issue.

It was stated in a number of comment that Wolfden would be economic opportunity for Northern Maine.

Economic opportunities *are* important for Northern Maine.

The questions are what strategies does the state of Maine want to use for economic opportunities?

Wolfden's proposal is SIX miles away from Maine's amazing Dark Sky Sanctuary in Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, which is not only Maine's dark sky area but this area is also important nationally AND internationally! **NO AMOUNT OF DARK SKY LIGHTING IS GOING TO INHIBIT LIGHT-POLLUTION ONTO THE INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY SANCTUARY.**

**The economic benefits of this dark sky area is going to prove huge in the near future. Maine be ready, look ahead.**

**Thank you for your efforts,  
Nancy Hathaway, president  
Dark Sky Maine**



[darksourcemaine@gmail.com](mailto:darksourcemaine@gmail.com)

## Kat Taylor – REBUTTAL on Wolfden Mt Chase LLC Testimony

Thursday, November 9, 2023

The following comments are my rebuttal to **testimony in support** of LUPC's permitting of Wolfden Mt. Chase LLC to mine or do exploratory mining of the Pickett Mountain area.

I reviewed the testimony and public comments and come up with these figures:  
(I deleted pages that were blank or with images only. Count does not include prior comments or testimony and may not be exact. But close enough to show the vast opposition.)

WOLF DEN TESTIMONY & PUBLIC COMMENT

09-22-23--11-02-23 Volume 1&2

**96 PAGES SUPPORT**

**1392 PAGES AGAINST**

Troy Jackson and Mike Michaud = 2 no opinion

### Small Footprint Assumption

In reviewing the testimony and comments *in support* of Wolfden's permitting, the overarching comment I noticed is that **Wolfden only wants to mine a 375 acre parcel of the approximately 7,000 acre parcel they own.**

**Anyone who thinks this permitting process is to only develop a small 375 acre parcel should watch the videos** referenced below where **Wolfden CEO Ron Little** talks to investors about **expansion of their 375 acre parcel to include not only their entire 7,000 acre parcel but the neighboring land up to the whole 30 kilometer deposit.**

*“Ron Little is the President, CEO and Director of Wolfden. The Company owns a 100% interest in the 6800 acre Pickett Mountain Project in Maine, USA, one of the highest grade undeveloped VMS deposits in North America.”*

The **investor videos** show Little talking about how easy it will be to turn Maine into one big mining operation with Wolfden trucking ore to either New Brunswick or upstate New York.

The video is chilling in the way **Little dispassionately talks about dissecting Maine's mineral deposits and the rich potential that has been protected for 30 years as being accessible now due to new mining laws passed in 2017.**

He goes on to say how Maine has a **“very supportive government...very supportive local community who is desperate for jobs”** and **“very much focused on generating new revenue with potential mining industry”**.

Little calmly discusses increasing Wolfden's mining footprint, drilling hundreds of meters deep, "...***not only going to try to expand the local deposit but we're going to see if we can find others in the property as well as on that 30 kilometer belt***" (6m0s)

Also of note in the videos is the **omission of any mention of the environmental impact**.

*(See below for video links and transcripts)*

## **Tribal Lands**

Ron Little, **in both videos**, mentions the **lack of indigenous rights** in Maine and how that streamlines the permitting process.

*Disclaimer: The information regarding land figures was obtained from the internet and may not reflect any recent increases in Tribal lands.*

Wabanaki people, including the **Maliseet, Micmac, Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, and Abenaki Nations**, have inhabited what is now northern New England, the Canadian Maritimes, and Quebec, since time immemorial according to oral histories, and for at least **13,000 years** according to the archaeological record.

Today the **Passamaquoddy Tribe owns more than 200,000 acres of land** in the State of Maine, in which they monitor and maintain. **Passamaquoddy of Indian Township live on the largest Indian reservation in the State**, located on the west branch of the St. Croix River, where their ties to the Earth are interwoven with their culture.

The **Penobscot Nation** is one of four **federally recognized** tribes in Maine. **It relies on the Penobscot River and its surrounding lands for subsistence**. In total, it holds over **128,000 acres** of land for its 2,400 members, including **95,000 acres of trust land** and **5,000 acres of reservation land**.

A national land trust wants to raise \$32 million to **return 31,000 acres of ancestral land to the Penobscot Nation** in a deal that would **increase tribal trust holdings by a third and secure public access to Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument** from the south.

The **Mi'kmaq Nation** were the first non-US power to sign a treaty with the United States, the **Treaty of Watertown, on 6 July 1776**. The tribe has no reservation but **owns 1,350 acres (5.5 km<sup>2</sup>) of land**.

The **Maliseet** have occupied areas of forest, river and coastal areas within their **20,000,000-acre, 200-mile-wide, and 600-mile-long homeland** in the Saint John River watershed.

Approximately **400 Abenaki** reside on these two reserves, which cover a total area of less than **7 square kilometres (2.7 sq mi)**. The unrecognized majority are off-reserve members, living in various cities and towns across Canada and the United States.

Some supporters alluded to how those from “away” from northern Maine have fewer rights to decide how the land is used. However, **if you are not a member of a Wabanaki tribe, then you are also from “away”**.

If **more weight** is added to the testimony of those who have **lived in the Pickett Mountain area the longest**, then the tribes should have **the most say in decisions that affect their land since they have lived there for thousands of years**.

And if you’re going to talk about livelihood, **the Wabanaki peoples make their living from the land *without despoliation*** which should take precedence over livelihoods that are detrimental, or even potentially detrimental, to the area.

- ***LUPC mandate: Prevent residential, recreational, commercial and industrial uses detrimental to the long-term health, use and value of these areas and to Maine’s natural resource-based economy;***

To put trust in Wolfden when CEO Ron Little dismisses the Alliance so casually, is to **ignore the obligation the state has in observing promises made in treaty**.

**It’s important to note that there are no tribal members on the Land Use Planning Commission**.

Yet the Wabanaki Alliance collectively own or control over **330,000 acres** of land and may soon **reacquire another 31,000 acres of ancestral land**.

So if land ownership carries more weight in LUPC’s decisions, then the Alliance should have almost **50 times more influence than Wolfden** who owns a fraction of the amount of land the tribes control.

With this much land under tribal control it is a **violation of Environmental Justice** that the indigenous peoples **are not represented on the commission** when the **LUPC’s decisions impact them and their land** they’ve fought so hard to preserve. It is also a flagrant violation of LUPC’s mandate **not** to:

- ***Honor the rights and participation of residents and property owners in the unorganized and deorganized areas **while recognizing the unique value** of these lands and waters to the State;***
- ***Prevent the despoliation, pollution and detrimental uses of the water in these areas; and***
- ***Conserve ecological and natural values.***

***Every tribal member vehemently opposes the Wolfden mining projects.***

## Population Decline

Another issue supports brought up is population decline. In my testimony I said:

*“The population of Maine has remained steady but the location of that population has shifted from rural towards urban areas because that is where most of the employment is. Rural industries like dairy farming, small operation logging, shoe factories, military bases and pulp mills closed leaving behind ghost towns like Millinocket, Lincoln, Dover-Foxcroft and Limestone.*

*Any farmer can tell you the land can only sustain so much. That once a plentiful resource is overused and been destroyed or depleted, the land can no longer support life.*

*This is always the result when people rely on a single source of support like paper mills. Single source economies are always more vulnerable than diversified systems.*

*Unfortunately those who put their trust in single source economies are the ones who suffer the most when those resources dry up due to depletion or when corporate decision makers decide it is more profitable to move work out-of-state, or country, where labor is cheap and regulations lax or nonexistent.*

*We saw this happen in Maine with the closing of mills, local shoe factories, dairy farms, chicken and potato farms, military bases, fishing industries and technology.*

*But those of us who are old enough to remember the so-called boom eras realize that nothing lasts forever; that we need backup plans in case things don't work out; that we need to adapt to change rather than **harbor delusions of reprieve** thinking the large employers, who only answer to their shareholders (to which Wolfden has admitted), make decisions to move on, abandoning those who put their faith in them.*

*The local jobs that **might be created** by Wolfden may not even be filled by Mainers and **there is no guarantee that they will be**. Or if Mainers even want to work in a hazardous environment when they can get cleaner, safer, well paying jobs. They just **need to face the fact that the area in which they live can no longer support the population's former size** and accept the fact the industries they relied on are gone and are not coming back.”*

Maine currently has what no longer exists in most of our extraction ravaged country and world.



Generations of native Mainers have sacrificed greater financial prosperity to preserve the wild places in Maine. We have been content to “get by” just so a few times a year we can visit those places to remind ourselves the cost is worth it.

People seeking wealth should do what the rest of us Mainers did for generations. Go elsewhere, work, and come home with the experience needed to open businesses, enhance the local workforce and retire with a greater appreciation of what Maine has to offer.

**Those who seek to exploit the Katahdin area for the sake of a few local jobs and a temporary boost to the economy should reconsider what they are asking the rest of us to sacrifice for them.**

Below I have added the testimony and comments of those who support Wolfden’s second attempt at rezoning Pickett Mountain. I have **made comments and highlighted text within those pages** that supports my rebuttal.

Please see the first **comments by JM Roy who disputes the pre-testimony of Elgin Turner and the accuracy of the percentage of voters who are in favor of the Wolfden project.**

Mr. Roy gives a much lower percentage of those who support Wolfden than Mr. Turner’s.

Respectfully,

Kat Taylor  
Argyle Twp.

Born and bred rural Mainer living on the same property for 4 generations...and we’re newcomers.

## Transcripts:

### Metals Investor Forum September 2018 - Ron Little, CEO of Wolfden Resources Corporation

**October 5, 2018**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5GcZs6HoS5E>

Timeline: 11m32s

0m:25s-0m:33s "...developing right now one of the highest grade VMS deposits in North America..."

0m:46s- 0m:49s " And Maine did go green. It was very challenging to get a permit to work there..."

0m:54s – 1m:23s " And Maine now has seen a transformation. There's no more pulp and paper business in the state. They're really down to cutting timber and a bit of tourism. **And the government has made a proactive statement to say we are open for business.**

They spent **5 years coming up with a new mining code** which the benefit is it **streamlined the permitting process** down to a definitive 2 year period.

**There is no more permits required for any of our exploration work."**

03m:36s – 03m:48s "**And we are clearly looking at other opportunities in Maine** because we're the first movers there. And so far, we have the pleasure of being I think about the only ones. So we're going to look at consolidating other things while we're there."

04m:01s – 04m:08s "we're all seasoned guys and **we're all out to make this a much bigger company.**"

04m:12s – 04m:48s "We're only about 40 minutes from the Canadian border. This is such high grade we think we can mine it with a portal underground and even **ship it to New Brunswick**. If we want a **quick and dirty approach**, or a **cheaper approach**, we're only **15 miles from a large rail sidings**.

So we could put that into a hopper and **rail it all the way up to New York** where we know there's lots of capacity at a current operating zinc mine there as well.

So we can **build this thing as cheap as chips** (?) or we can certainly, **if we find another lens, to take this from 3 to maybe 5 million tons we'd probably put a concentrator in ourselves.**"

04m:55s – 05m:0s “...the package of volcanics which are about 450 million years old **extends right from Newfoundland all the way through the Appalachians.**”

05m:06s – 05m:27s “**Bald mountain** was something chatted about for **years it would be a large open pit mine scenario but currently the new mining code in Maine has banned open pit mining.** They’re very **worried about acid generation** and I think once they see a modern mine, potentially ours up and running I think **20 years from now that restriction will likely come off.**”

6m:08s – 06m:49s “Now **the property itself sits in a belt that’s about 30 kilometers long... we’re currently investigating many targets** that we identified and you **know if we feel necessary to drill some of these targets we’ll naturally step out and offer up some kind of a joint venture agreement with our neighbors.**

So again we’ve got a package that’s basically been totally unexplored.”

07m:06s – 07m:43s “...and this is the deposit here but you can see **there’s parallel systems that trend.** This would be **about three miles away still on our property so we’re going back to ground truth these.** The ground cover’s very thin we can often trench and hit bedrock so we can go back to very basic techniques before we spend too much money drilling all these targets.

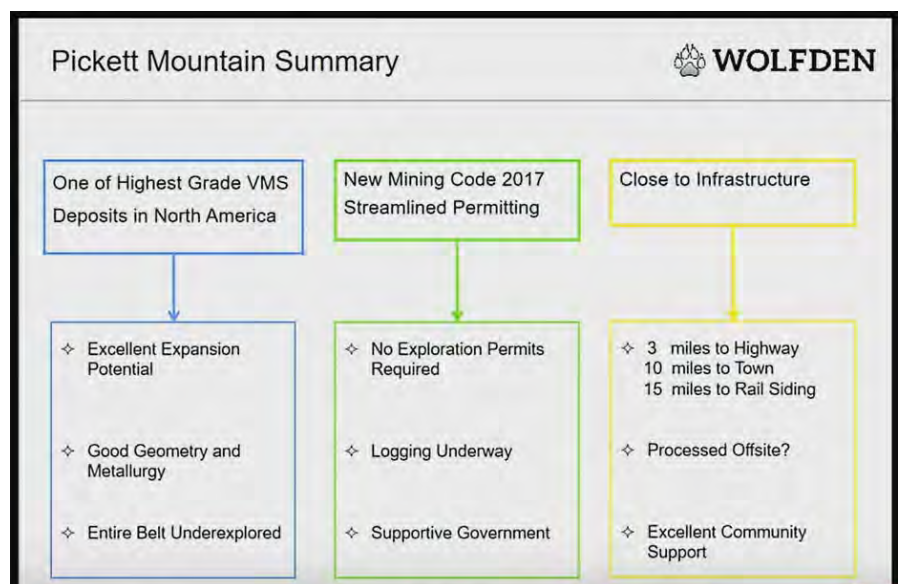
But we’re **very excited about the potential that we’ve got here not only in this chunk but in all of the ground around us.** And we’re getting our low (?) our neighbors are cutting the lumber on our property so we’ve already set up a great business relationship with our neighbors.”

07m:51s - 07m:53s “...the **ellipses show where there’s obvious targets to follow up.**”

09m:37s – 10m:12s “So this is really the takeaway slide. You know, number one we’ve got really the highest grade deposit.

Number two we’ve got a **proactive government and a great new code.**

And second we’re **close to infrastructure.** And anybody out there that has the same grade as we do they don’t have that close



to infrastructure, and **often they'll have Native issues if it's in Canada.**

**We have no native issues whatsoever.** Again, we own the land and because we're lumbering we've already, we're putting in roads and cutting trees and we're doing everything that usually take years to do when you're trying to build your mine."

### First Mover in Maine - Wolfden Resources Corp.

**February 6, 2019**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7qCBU3ncC8>


0m:025s – 0m:28s “Maine has not been mined for 30 years, but it did develop a brand new mining code a year ago.”

0m:48s – 0m:52s “It's in the district of one of the world's best base metal deposits.”

0m:53s – 0m:57s **Disclaimer** *displayed for only 4 seconds*

in Maine - Wolfden Resources Corp.

**Disclaimer**



This presentation may contain "forward looking information" within the meaning of Canadian securities legislation, which are based on the opinions and estimates of management and are subject to a variety of risks and uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual events or results to differ materially from those projected in the forward looking information. Such risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, risks associated with the mining industry, the risk of commodity price and foreign exchange rate fluctuations, the ability of Wolfden to fund the capital and operating expenses necessary to achieve the business objectives of Wolfden, as well as those risks described in public disclosure documents filed by Wolfden. Due to the risks, uncertainties and assumptions inherent in forward-looking information, prospective investors in securities of Wolfden should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking information.

This presentation has been completed by Wolfden. Certain corporate projects referred to herein are subject to agreements with third parties who have not prepared, reviewed nor approved this presentation. The presentation is not intended to reflect the actual plans or exploration and development programs contemplated for such projects.


Don Hoy, P. Geo., and Ron Little, P. Eng. are the Qualified Persons for the information contained in this presentation and is a Qualified Person within the meaning of National Instrument 43-101.

For further information on the technical data provided in this presentation, including the key assumptions underlying the mineral resource herein, refer to the Sedar filings as listed below:

Unless otherwise stated, the financial information in this presentation is as reported in the latest quarterly filings or press release related to the financial information of the Corporation.

Pickett Mountain aerial photographs provided courtesy of LandVest

Information in this presentation is as of January 14, 2019.

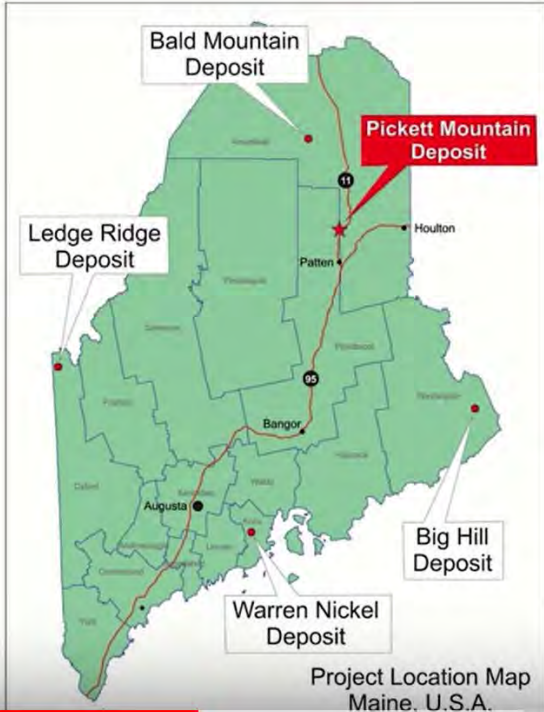


1m:07s – 1m:17s “We have been bought out several times mainly because we've been building large deposits. I've had over **25 years doing this, in Africa**, mostly on gold deposits.”

1m:41s – 02m:13s “This is the state of Maine on the map. We’re only 50 kilometers from the New Brunswick border. This gives us total flexibility to mine the ore and truck it into New Brunswick if we think we can permit a tailings facility in New Brunswick easier than we can in Maine.

The grade is so high that we can even afford to truck the ore even up to upstate New York where Titan mining has a project. And in New Brunswick Trevali has an operating project.”

Wolfden Resources Corp.  
Wolfden First Mover in Maine



Project Location Map  
Maine, U.S.A.

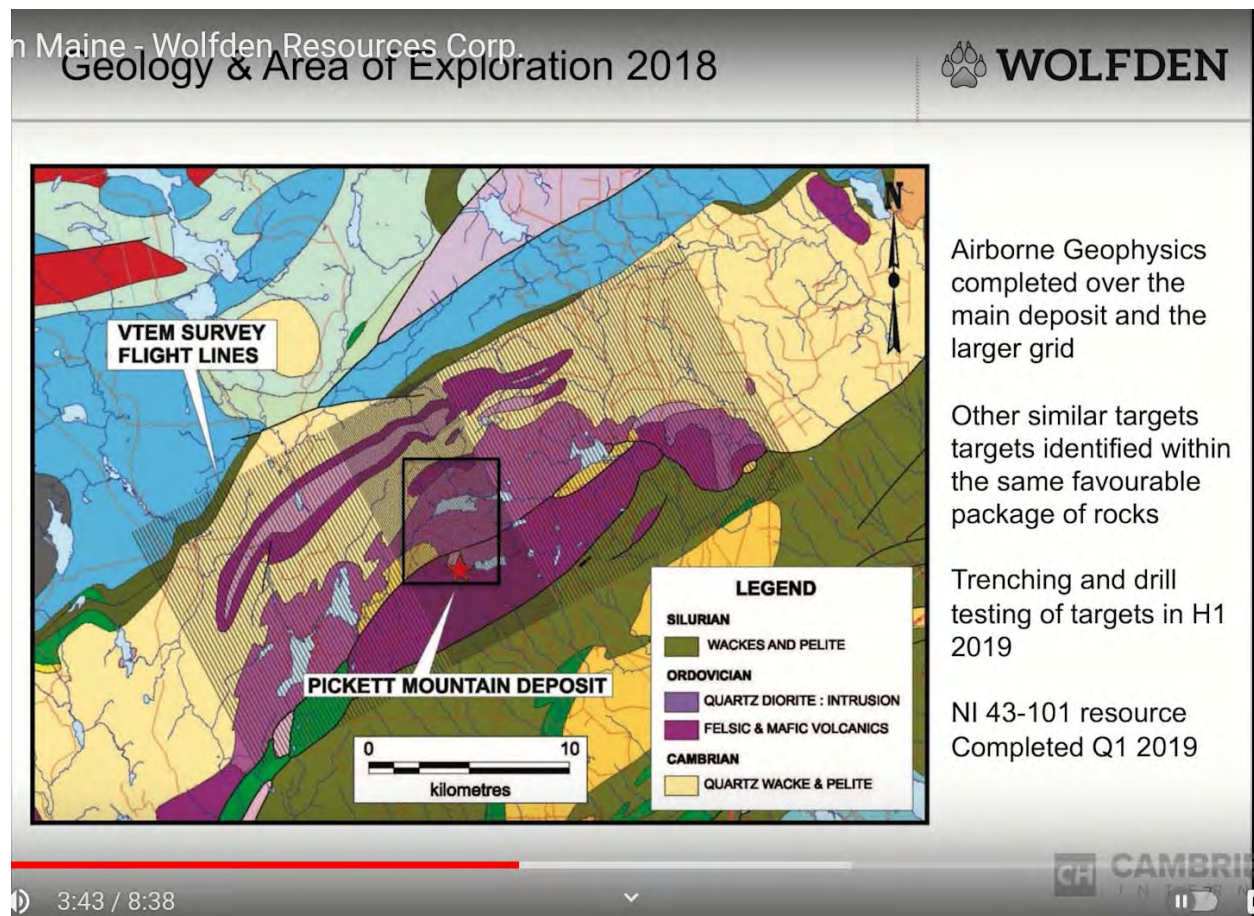
- In 2013, Maine started process to reform mining laws to allow underground mining only
- November 2017 New Mining Code enacted - Bill LD820
- 1980's was the last significant exploration
- **Pickett Mountain is one of the highest-grade undeveloped volcanogenic massive sulphide deposits in North America that remains open for potential expansion**
- **Jan 7, 2019 Mineral Resource Estimate**  
*2.05 Mt at 19.32% ZnEq of Indicated*  
*2.03 Mt at 20.61% ZnEq of Inferred*  
*(ZnEq cut-off grade of 9%)*

2:10 / 8:38

3m:16s – 3m:35s “Our land package, we own it outright. It’s 7,000 acres. We own the timber, we own the access. It’s just off the highway, there’s power nearby and there’s a town 10 miles away.

**There are no indigenous in the state of Maine. So this really streamlines the permitting process.”**

3m:35s – 4m:10s “the little black box is the 7,000 acres and the purple is the volcanic belt that holds the deposit. We’ve flown the entire 30 kilometer belt. There are great looking targets in that belt. And **our goal this year is to access those and drill them.**”

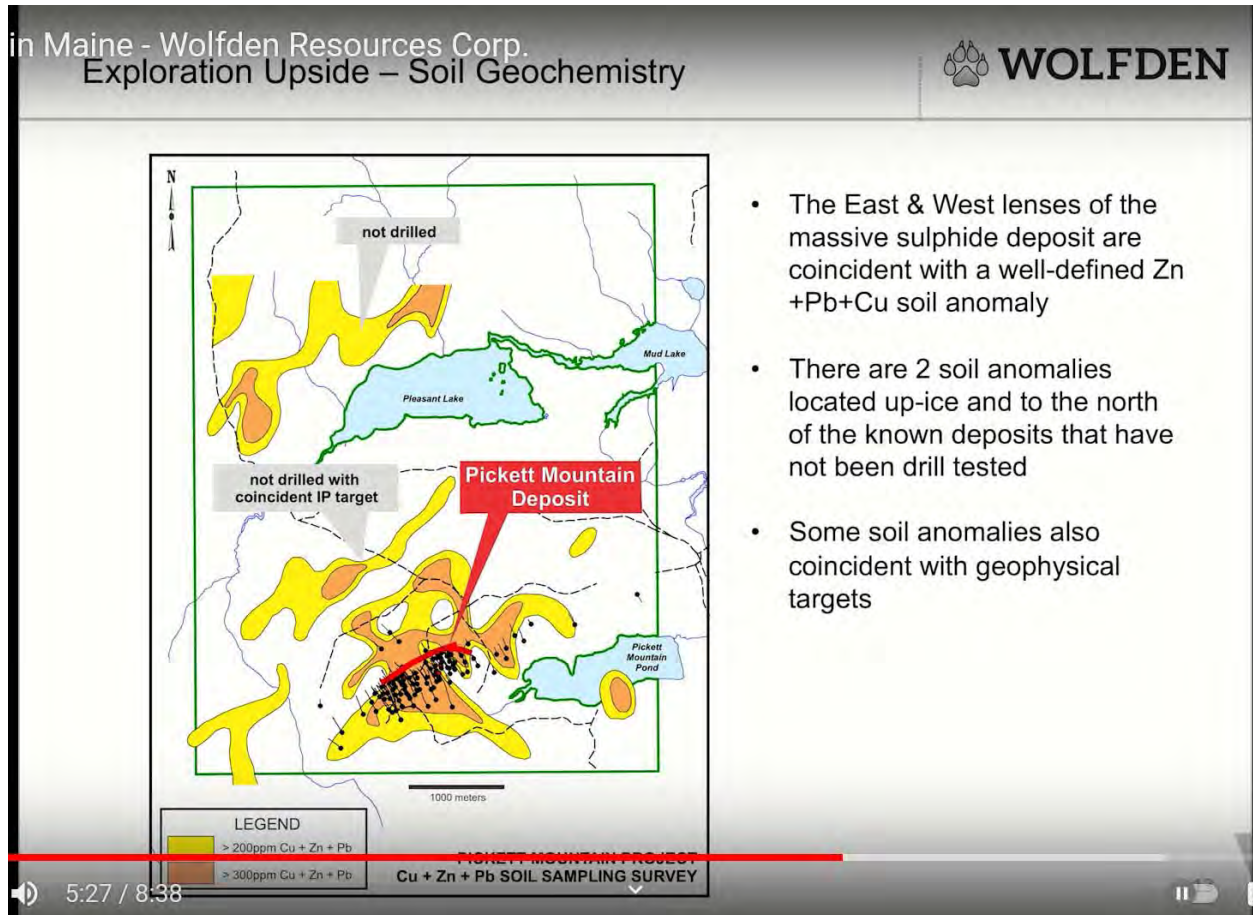


We don’t own that land out there but other lumber companies own that land. Two of them are actually cutting timber on our property and we’re generating revenue from our timber cutting of about a quarter million US a year, which basically pays for about half of our overhead.”

4m:28s – 4m:46s “There’s really already enough here to justify building a mine which we could ramp down, truck the ore, but **there’s clearly evidence here to, ah, potentially double the size of this deposit.** And I think that’s what’s going to generate the growth of the company rather than focus on permitting at this stage.

5m:24s – 5m:27s “This shows you the upside potential of the whole property.”

6m:00s - 6m:10s “And **we’re not only going to try to expand the local deposit we’re gonna see if we can define others in the property as well as along that 30 kilometer belt.**”



## Summary

n Maine - Wolfden Resources Corp.  
Pickett Mountain Summary

**WOLFDEN**

- ✓ The Pickett Mountain one of the highest-grade undeveloped VMS deposits in the World
- ✓ Excellent potential to expand the deposit and discover other lenses and satellite deposits
- ✓ Preliminary metallurgical work yielded recoveries of Zinc (88%), Lead (77%) and Copper (74%) which are excellent for a VMS deposit in the Appalachians
- ✓ The Maine Volcanic Belt neighbours the well endowed Bathurst Camp in New Brunswick
- ✓ Entire Belt is very much underexplored compared to Bathurst
- ✓ 2017 Maine enacts New Mining Laws
- ✓ Local community very supportive on ongoing exploration

7:31 / 8:38

7m:40s - 8m:24s “We’ve got a **very supportive government**. We’ve got a **very supportive local community who is really desperate for jobs**. This whole community is really survived on wood cutting and the timber business. And all of the pulp and paper plants have shut down in Maine. **So Maine is very much focused on generating new revenue with potential mining industry.**


**So that new code is important.** We believe in it. We have new found corporate interest in this company because of the grade of the deposit. We’re looking forward to maybe forming partnerships in the coming months that will give you the comfort that Maine is a good place to work. **And this deposit is not very small.”**



**WOLF DEN RESOURCES (TSX-V: WLF) - The Highest Grade Undeveloped VMS Deposit in America**

**June 15, 2022**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bzHHDO3Zlkw>

in Maine - Wolfden Resources Corp. Global Comparison to other Zinc deposits 

Project	Company	Tonnage (MM)	Zinc (%)	Zinc (MMlb)	ZnEq (%)	ZnEq (MMlb)	ZnEq Rank	Value (US\$/t)	Value Rank
Kipushi	Ivanhoe Mines Ltd	15.7	29.8%	10,275	34.5%	11,916	3	\$876	1
Izok Lake	MMG Ltd	14.6	13.0%	4,184	21.9%	7,046	8	\$555	2
<b>Pickett Mountain</b>	<b>Wolfden Resources</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>10.4%</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>20.9%</b>	<b>1,878</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>\$529</b>	<b>3</b>
Prairie Creek	Norzinc Ltd	15.8	9.2%	3,211	19.4%	6,723	9	\$491	4
High Lake	MMG Ltd	14.0	3.8%	1,173	14.3%	4,422	17	\$363	5
Arctic	Trilogy Metals Inc	39.5	4.1%	3,567	14.2%	12,409	2	\$361	6
Aznalcóllar	Emerita Resources Corp	20.0	6.7%	2,932	12.4%	5,454	15	\$314	7
Florida Canyon	Solitario Zinc Corp	12.1	10.7%	2,855	12.0%	3,202	23	\$304	8
Lik	Solitario Zinc Corp	23.5	8.2%	4,253	11.5%	5,940	13	\$291	9
Seal Zinc	Aston Bay Holdings Ltd	1.0	10.2%	226	11.1%	245	47	\$282	10
<b>Group Average (total dataset = 50)</b>		<b>23.1</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>2,469</b>	<b>9.2%</b>	<b>4,108</b>		<b>\$232</b>	

In-situ ZnEq value based on Cormark's long-term metal pricing including US\$1.15/lb zinc, US\$1.00/lb lead, US\$3.00/lb copper, US\$1,250/oz gold, and US\$15.00/oz silver. Source: Company disclosure and Cormark Securities Inc.

***“Growth potential aside, Pickett Mountain’s high-grade tenor already positions Wolfden as a meaningful player relative to zinc-developer peers on a contained metal (1.9 Bil ZnEq) and in-situ value per tonne basis (US\$529/t)”***

*Stefan Ioannou – Analyst Cormark Securities, Jan 8/19*

***“Of these projects, Pickett Mtn. arguably has a favored location with excellent infrastructure and could be one of the most straight forward to develop”***

6:50 / 8:38

# AGAINST MT CHASE

Carr, Tim

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**From:** JM Roy <jroy@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 2, 2023 4:16 PM  
**To:** LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning  
**Subject:** Pickett Mountain Mine Rezoning Application, ZP 779A – Wolfden Mt. Chase LLC

**EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hello,

My name is JM Roy and I live in Mount Chase, approximately 5 miles south of the proposed Pickett Mountain mine. I urge you to reject Wolfden Resources' second rezoning proposal for its Pickett Mountain property.

I attended several community meetings related to the mine proposal in both Mount Chase and Patten and heard several different Wolfden representatives speak about the proposed mine. In response to questions from community members, Wolfden told residents what they wanted to hear and assured them that any concerns would be addressed by Maine's mining laws. When I would research those topics after returning home, I often found that the law was silent on whatever topic it was supposed to address.

see below

The pre-filed testimony from Intervenor 1, H.C. Haynes, Inc, claims that area communities support this project and includes the results of town meeting votes. While it is true that several area communities voted to support the development of the mine, the vote totals only reflect the few residents of each community who were able to be present at the meetings. When the number of registered voters in each community is taken into account, the amount of support for the mine looks more like this:

Town	Date	Voters	In Favor	Against	% in Favor	% Against	# Registered Voters	%Registered Voters in Favor	# of Registered Voters present
Stacyville	07/20/22	24	22	2	92%	8%	233	9%	10%
Hersey	10/06/22	12	11	1	92%	8%	50	22%	24%
Moro Plantation	12/14/22	6	5	1	83%	17%	33	15%	18%
Sherman	2/20/23	50	45	5	90%	10%	524	9%	10%
Patten	04/13/23	121	75	46	62%	38%	589	13%	21%
Mount Chase	05/23/23	66	33	33	50%	50%	155	21%	43%
Mount Chase	4/5/2023	29	14	15	48%	52%	155	9%	19%

I voted at both meetings in Mount Chase. At the first meeting, there were few, if any, copies of the resolution we were voting on available. While I had seen it posted on the town's Facebook page prior to the meeting, I did not have a copy to refer to during the vote. It was evident during the meeting that many residents did not have a clear idea of what we were voting on. The resolution was on Wolfden letterhead, labeled "Sample" at the top, and had been written and submitted to the town of Mount Chase by Wolfden. It stated that associated mine facilities would be located in a town outside Mount Chase and that residents supported the process of Wolfden undergoing a permit application for a mine and associated facilities under Chapter 200 Regulations and the opportunity for a responsible mining operation in the region. Given that no specifics were provided about where the associated facilities would be located, other than the assurance that they would be located outside Mount

Chase, I questioned why Mount Chase residents were being asked to vote on this premature, non-binding resolution before the rezoning application had even been approved.

I have been unable to track down copies of resolutions for all the towns that voted, but my understanding is that the Patten resolution was a lightly edited version of the one voted on in Mount Chase, and also stated that the associated mine facilities would be located in a town outside Patten. The Stacyville resolution stated that the Town of Stacyville would like the associated facilities to be located in the town of Stacyville.

The Wolfden application for rezoning lists Hersey, Patten and Stacyville as three proposed locations for the associated mine facilities, despite the Patten resolution supporting the facilities being located outside of Patten. Without knowing the location of the associated mine facilities, it seems difficult to assess the impact of traffic associated with the mine. Locating associated facilities in Patten or Stacyville would funnel a considerable amount of truck traffic through Patten since there are no alternate routes.

Attachment 2-B of the application shows the Conceptual Project Schedule, which demonstrates that the mine is expected to operate for approximately 10 years. An ellipsis stands in for years 14 to 42 after the mine is closed and the removal of the water treatment facility and ponds, when ground and surface water will be monitored for contamination. It would be more telling if the full timeline was represented on the map, with the need for monitoring water quality lasting 3 times or more as long as the mine was in operation. In the technical sessions, a similar schedule was presented with one ellipsis representing years 27 to 125 and then another ellipsis representing year 126 to infinity. The risks to the watershed, State Heritage Fishing Waters, and the West Branch of the Mattawamkeag River far outweigh the benefits of short-term jobs for 10-15 years. Although Wolfden claims that those jobs will provide opportunities for local residents to stay in the area and raise families, the jobs won't last even for the length of time needed to raise one child to adulthood. What would happen to mine employees who lose their jobs with children in high school? According to Jeremy Ouellette, they would be able to look for job opportunities "overseas," which doesn't seem to provide a long-term socioeconomic benefit to those communities affected by the mine operations.

Supporters of the mine often claim that this is an industrial landscape with a long history of extractive uses. However, this landscape has only been used for commercial logging and other extractive uses for less than 200 years. Prior to that, citizens of the Penobscot Nation cared for this landscape since time immemorial, as they still do today. The wealth of this landscape does not lie in what can be extracted from it, it lies in what we can continue to care for so that future generations might experience it as we do today. For these reasons, I urge the Commission to deny Wolfden's rezoning petition.

Sincerely,

JM Roy

Mount Chase, ME

WOLFDEN TESTIMONY  
09-22-23--11-02-23 Volume 1&2  
96 PAGES SUPPORT  
1392 AGAINST  
Troy Jackson and Mike Michaud =  
2 no opinion



TROY  
JACKSON  
NO  
OPINION

Troy D. Jackson  
President of the Senate

THE MAINE SENATE  
131st Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

October 2, 2023

Chair and Commissioners

Land Use Planning Commission  
Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

LUPC - AUGUSTA  
OCT 04 2023  
RECEIVED

RE: Pickett Mountain Mine Rezoning Application, ZP 779A — Wolfdon Mt. Chase LLC

Dear Chair Worcester and Commissioners:

As the State Senator representing the citizens of Maine Senate District 1, I write to express my views on the Mine Rezoning Application referenced above, the Pickett Mountain proposal.

As you all well know, Northern Maine — indeed, nearly all of rural Maine — needs more economic development opportunities if these communities are to survive and thrive in today's world. At the same time, we must maintain and advance strong environmental protections to ensure we are meeting our responsibility to future generations in protecting the land, air, and water so critical to human health. Over the last several years, Maine's Legislature and the Executive Branch have overhauled Maine's mining laws to ensure deposits critical to advancing the green economy can be mined, but only under the most rigorous environmental protections in North America. The Commission's role, of course, is not to determine whether the detailed standards of Maine's Mining law have been met, but instead to determine if the area impacted by a proposal is an appropriate location for such an operation.

From the materials I have reviewed so far, Wolfdon's proposal to have the 374 acreage in T6R6 WELS rezoned from General Management to a Planned Development sub district appears appropriate. Indeed, in comments to the LUPC, the Maine Geological Survey indicates the Pickett Mountain deposit "stands out as most compatible with the objectives of the [Mining Act] which favors small, high-grade deposits that can be mined underground, having less potential environmental impact than large, low-grade, surface mines."

As I understand it, the purpose of the D-PD sub district is to allow for large-scale, well-planned developments that depend on a particular natural resource that is present at the site. The mineral deposit identified by Wolfdon is claimed to be such a resource. Additionally, one of the goals of LUPC's Comprehensive Land Use Plan is the responsible mining of metallic minerals,

which supports the requested rezoning. As you know, this is the first in a two-step process. LUPC is being asked to approve the rezoning. If, and only if, the rezoning is approved, can Wolfden proceed to the second step and submit a mining permit application to DEP under the Mining Law. Believe me, I will be an active participant in ensuring that the region's precious natural resources are fully protected under any license granted to a mining applicant.

In comments to LUPC, the Maine Geological Survey also noted that there are few known mineral deposits in Maine that are of a significant size and grade, and that the primary mineral in this deposit, zinc, is on the federal list of critical minerals, essential to the economic and national security of the United States. MGS concluded that it would be appropriate for LUPC to rezone the area and allow Wolfden to proceed to the second phase of the permitting process.

As the primary proponent of legislation to update and strengthen Maine's mining laws several years ago, I am well aware that a discussion of mining in Maine is not without controversy. Maine's most recent legislation and rulemaking on mining has responded to the public's demand for tough, clearly articulated standards for a mining permit application to be approved. It is vital for interested parties to recognize the LUPC process is not an approval for a mining project. It is a rezoning that would allow an applicant to apply to DEP and demonstrate its proposed development can meet Maine's tough requirements.

All citizens of Maine have a stake in environmental protection and a stake in what is allowed by the choices LUPC makes on zoning. Whether a person is from Portland, Princeton, or Patten, the views of all should be weighed and considered by the Commissioners in determining appropriate uses in the unorganized territories. At the same time, the views of those closest to an area being considered for a rezoning proposal — the people who likely know the area best and whose lives would be most affected by such a project— should perhaps be given a bit closer look.

Once again, I appreciate the Commissioner's work on this important issue and thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,



Troy Dale Jackson  
President of the Maine Senate

1290 Pabineau Falls Road  
Pabineau First Nation NB  
E2A 7M3

SUPPORT  
NEW  
BRUNSWICK

*pabineau*  
FIRST NATION



September 29<sup>th</sup> , 2023

Dear Commissioners,

Let me first introduce myself, my name is Terry Richardson and I am the Chief of Pabineau First Nation. A first Nation community in Northern New Brunswick a Mik' Maq community of 357 people. Prior to being elected Chief in 2020 I served as a Councillor in my community for 8 years and I was also able to be the Mik' Maq benefits Manager for Trevali mining which consisted of hiring and training First Nation members.

I am very familiar with mining operations, specifically those extracting zinc, lead and copper as the Bathurst area is one of Canada's oldest mining districts for these types of deposits. I have represented my community through agreements with mining companies and other industrial endeavors related to traditional land use and I continue to do so with more development occurring in our traditional land. These relationships between First Nations and industry are common place in Canada, however I appreciate that Wolfden's proposal to advance the Pickett project in Northern Maine is of great interest and concern to some residents in the area.

My intention of this letter is to provide character references for Wolfden employees with whom I have had a personal working relationship and to provide some background on my experiences with mining companies engagements. My intention is not to convince anyone who opposes the project to change his or her mind or to interject myself in a controversial process.

In Canada, partnerships are typically developed in the early stages of a project between First Nations and mining companies to discuss concerns and collaborate on mutually beneficial initiatives related to exploration and then the mining operation itself. We have developed relationships with members of the Wolfden management team through the development of co-operation agreements that resulted in meaningful opportunities for my community as well as other surrounding First Nation communities that benefited even though the mine was in my community's traditional territory. We are not a Myopic community and believe wealth should be shared.

My experience was one that communications was mutually respectful, and my community was able to develop employment, business opportunities and contracting work. I myself was involved in developing a training program in New Brunswick with several partnerships and it resulted in many First Nation members becoming miners and many are still employed in the sector worldwide including my son who is working abroad.

I would engage with the Wolfden team in the future should an opportunity arise in our traditional territory in the future.

I realize that mining is in some cases very controversial. But the reality is as we move forward to a green Energy sector, the need for metals will grow and as well with China seeming to buy up all the precious metals in the world this is a dangerous time for democracies.

Although mining operations are required to abide by strict regulations across Canada and the United States, Maine has pulled "ahead of the pack", with its recent legislation in 2017. I believe that a company demonstrating it can meet or exceed these regulations could create a template for best practice that would or could be adopted in other jurisdictions, which could be a template for best practices. These are difficult times we have a need for more metals but we have a responsibility to ensure our environment is taken care of for our next seven generations that is the

native way.

Again, from my experience with Wolfden, it has been positive and I believe the rezoning approval and this will lead to economic opportunities and benefits for northern Maine. As well ensuring the regulations are followed and enforced will ensure minimal risk.

I thank you for taking the time to read my comments and I am available to discuss in more detail at any time....

Sincerely,

Terry Richardson  
Chief  
Pabineau First Nation  
1-506-987-9142

If Wolfden is promising "local" jobs why are so many people who worked for them away from Maine or overseas?



MIKE  
MICHAUD  
NO  
OPINION

Chair and Commissioners  
Land Use Planning Commission  
Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: Pickett Mountain Mine Rezoning Application

Dear Chairman Worcester and Commissioners:

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Maine, the unorganized territories, and the people of rural Maine. Without the efforts of people like you willing to serve the public interest, our State could not advance and become even better than it is today.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve citizens in my area in several elected and appointed positions over several decades. And, whether in Washington, Augusta, or in East Millinocket, a few principles have guided my commitment to the public interest. First, I try to listen to the people most affected by the choices I make. Second, I do my utmost to take the long view — how are we to act today to improve our chances for a better tomorrow. Third, I believe an unwavering commitment to protecting Maine's natural resources is crucial to our future. Fourth, I believe economic opportunity — safe jobs with good wages and benefits — for all segments of society is critical to human dignity and hope. And, fifth, I believe we find the public interest by balancing competing interests and making tough choices.

incorrect acreage

Wolfden's application before you to develop about 130 acres in T6R6 WELS for a small mining operation appears to meet the criteria established under the law and rules you help administer. At the same time, the choice before you is anything but simple or easy. You are balancing the recreational and environmental protection goals we all share with the opportunity to enhance economic opportunity for people in the region. In my estimation, Maine's Legislature has established a balanced and reasonable two step process for proposals of this type in the unorganized territories: first, have the LUPC consider if the contemplated use is reasonable in the area proposed for rezoning. And second, impose the rigorous environmental evaluation required for any significant development application. Clearly, mining is substantially more complicated to evaluate and regulate than many other uses that you consider for a rezoning application. At the same time, as the Maine Geological Survey noted in its comments, the Pickett Mountain deposit "stands out as most compatible with the objectives of the [Mining Act] which favors small, high-grade deposits that can be mined underground, having less potential environmental impact than large, low-grade, surface mines." Furthermore, as the applicant has asserted, one of the goals of LUPC's Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) is the responsible mining of metallic minerals in a manner consistent with the character of your jurisdiction. This application to rezone and develop a mine, in this location, seems responsive to the goals of both the Mining Act and the CLUP.



As a few of you may know, when I served in the Maine Legislature I chaired the Committee whose oversight included the Department of Environmental Protection. I proposed a number of significant environmental protection bills that were enacted into law and I pushed the regulators at DEP to apply the law and rules aggressively and effectively. Economic opportunity is no excuse to bend the law for the benefit of the few to the detriment of the many. As a keen observer of the Department over the years, I am confident that the culture of the Maine DEP for a long time has been robust regulation and enforcement. So, I don't know if Wolfden can prove that its proposal will meet the rigorous standards of Maine's mining law and rules. But, I do have confidence in the DEP to scrutinize carefully any mining application proposal that comes before them. Finally, as you know, that application for this project cannot even be filed without your decision to rezone this area.

I am not an expert on the changes recently enacted to revamp Maine's mining laws to enhance environmental protection but from what I've heard and read it appears Maine has not chosen to ban mining, instead enacting among the toughest standards in the country. For that, I am grateful and I expect as you review this rezoning application, those tough standards give you some comfort. And, as you go through this process, I hope citizens and interested parties will appreciate your role as the LUPC: to determine if the application and the contemplated use are reasonable under the law and rules you must fairly and justly apply.

Once again, I appreciate efforts of the LUPC staff and of the Commissioners on this critical matter. Thank you in advance for considering my comments.

Sincerely,



Michael H. Michaud

2023-09-25-Haynes-Prefiled Testimony-Elgin Turner, PLS

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY  
LAND USE PLANNING COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF ) **PREFILED TESTIMONY**  
PETITION ZP 779A ) **H.C. HAYNES, INC.**  
WOLFDEN MT. CHASE, LLC ) **ELGIN TURNER, PLS**

**A. INTRODUCTION**

My name is **Elgin H. Turner**. I reside in Lincoln, Maine. I have associate and bachelor’s degrees in forestry from the University of Maine system. I practiced forestry as a licensed Maine forester for 15 years and have been a professional land surveyor since 1982.

I served on the Town of Lincoln Comprehensive Plan Committee and served over 15 years as a member of the Town of Lincoln Planning Board. I am also a member of the Maine Forest Products Council.

I am employed by **H.C. Haynes, Inc.** (“Haynes”). My duties include:

- 1-land use compliance under state and federal laws and regulations, including those of the Land Use Planning Commission, (“Commission”), on lands within the Commission’s jurisdiction and owned by Haynes or third parties;
- 2-evaluation of parcels of land for purchase, sale, timber harvesting, recreational leases, development, conservation sales and easements and related activities;
- 3-management of timberlands including boundary line and adjacent landowner relations;
- 4-contract negotiation and compliance including wind farms, solar farms and related wind and solar infrastructure; and
- 5-monitoring bills affecting forestry and related operations in the Maine Legislature including testifying on forestry issues before legislative committees.

I am familiar with the Wolfden Mt. Chase, LLC, parcel where the proposed project will be located as well as the surrounding timberlands in Hersey, Moro Plantation and surrounding townships.

**H.C. Haynes, Inc., is owned by members of Herbert and Virginia Haynes’ family. The Haynes family has extensive real estate holdings throughout the organized towns and unorganized territories of Maine. The Haynes family is a major producer of wood fiber for manufacturers and other users throughout Maine and other markets. The Haynes family has been involved with land**

ownership and wood production in Maine for almost 100 years. The Haynes family is committed to multiple use of its lands and has always allowed appropriate public use of its property for traditional Maine recreational pursuits such as hunting, fishing, atvs and snowmobiling.

The Haynes family is well acquainted with the challenging economic conditions facing northern Maine today and, in particular, with the project area and the Katahdin Region in LUPC’s jurisdiction.

**B. THE KATAHDIN REGION AND PROJECT AREA**

As you consider this rezoning petition, please keep the following factors in mind:

**1-Katahdin Area Population and Job Losses**

The Katahdin Region has suffered ongoing population and job losses for decades as documented by the US Census Bureau: and the applicant’s economic study:

<b>Percent Change in Population</b>		
<b>Town</b>	<b>1990-2020</b>	<b>1980-2020</b>
<b>Patten</b>	-29.9	-35.6
<b>Sherman</b>	-20.6	-20.2
<b>Stacyville</b>	-20.8	-31.4
<b>Hersey</b>	5.8	9.0
<b>Crystal</b>	-18.2	-28.9
<b>Island Falls</b>	-15.5	-22.7
<b>Moro Plt</b>	15.8	46.7
<b>Mount Chase</b>	-26.4	-19.7
<b>Millinocket</b>	-40.9	-45.6
<b>East Millinocket</b>	-27.4	-33.7
<b>Medway</b>	-38.2	-36.6
<b>Houlton</b>	-8.4	-10.5
<b>Lincoln</b>	-13.1	-4.2

Percent Change in Population Every 10 Years							
Town	2010-2020	2000-2010	1990-2000	1980-1990	1970-1980	1960-1970	1950-1960
Patten	-13.4	-8.5	-11.5	-8.2	8.1	-3.5	-14.3
Sherman	-3.9	-9.5	-8.8	0.6	7.6	-8.2	0.8
Stacyville	-4.0	-2.2	-15.6	-13.4	1.3	-18.7	-0.9
Hersey	-12.0	31.7	-8.7	3.0	-17.3	-23.6	-8.6
Crystal	-7.8	-5.6	-5.9	-13.2	24.2	-1.4	-24.0
Island Falls	-9.4	5.5	-11.6	-8.6	7.4	-10.3	-18.0
Moro Plt	15.8	-39.7	65.8	26.7	25.0	-51.0	-41.7
Mount Chase	-7.0	-18.6	-2.8	9.0	18.3	10.1	-28.4
Millinocket	-8.7	-13.4	-25.2	-8.1	-2.3	5.8	24.6
East Millinocket	-8.8	-5.7	-15.6	-8.7	-7.6	7.3	76.1
Medway	-12.0	-9.4	-22.5	2.7	25.5	17.8	74.6
Houlton	-1.1	-5.5	-2.1	-2.3	-16.6	-2.1	-0.7
Lincoln	-4.6	-2.6	-6.6	10.3	6.5	4.8	16.3

### Population Growth

The population of the Pickett region has declined steadily since the 1970s and 1980s, mirroring changes in the forest products industry that once dominated the region (Chart 1). A series of mill layoffs and closures reduced employment opportunities, causing many residents to relocate. While some sites are being redeveloped, technological advances mean new operations do not require the thousands of workers mills once employed. Since 1990, Mount Chase's population has dwindled by 26%, Patten's by 30%, Millinocket LMA's by 31%, and Houlton LMA's by 10%. Today, 18,000 people live in Houlton LMA – 27% of Aroostook County's population and 1.3% of Maine's – and 9,100 people live in Millinocket LMA – 6% of Penobscot County's population and less than 1% of the state.

Exhibit 1 graphically depicts the long term population loss for Millinocket, East Millinocket and Medway and Exhibit 2 shows the population loss for East Millinocket and Millinocket during the time the Commission has been in existence.

Many of us remember Great Northern Paper Company and Lincoln Pulp and Paper and the thousands of employees who worked for those companies and that employment supported the regional economy and was of statewide significance.

Those jobs are gone. The Millinocket mill closed in 2008, the East Millinocket mill closed in 2014 and the Lincoln paper mill closed in 2016. The Katahdin Region has pretty much lost most of its working age population in the years following these mill closures since there were no jobs here for people and they were forced to leave the area.

The Katahdin Region needs jobs, jobs, jobs. People need to work.

## 2-The Project Area is Part of Maine’s Industrial Working Forest

The Wolfden parcel of over 7,000 acres is part of Maine’s multi million acre working industrial forest which produces the fiber so vital to Maine’s economy.

The project area is not a wilderness, it is a **working forest**. Maine timberlands are a multiple use working forests and even though some people may think the working forest is part of some wilderness experience, in fact, it is no different than a potato field or other crop field. **The crop rotation is a bit longer.**

**So then traffic is limited during 20 years of tree growth rather than a yearly harvest like farms or a 365/24 per day harvest like a mine.**

The private road system accessing the project area and surrounding industrial forest has been used on a regular basis to transport heavy construction equipment such as graders, loaders, excavators, skidders, delimiters, and related timber harvesting equipment as well as loaded (approximately 100,000 pounds) and empty logging trucks to transport timber. Typical woods operations roads are built and maintained for heavy logging equipment with recreational use being incidental.

**The logging roads from Route 11, the nearest public road, to the project area are private and public use is permissive with each landowner,**

## 3-Your Mandate is to Consider the Interests of Local Residents and the Interests of Landowners and to Encourage Regional Economic Viability

Area communities are in favor of this project:

The town meeting votes were as follows:

Town	Date	Voters	In		% In	
			Favor	Against	Favor	Against
Stacyville	20-Jul-22	24	22	2	92	8
Hersey	6-Oct-22	12	11	1	92	8
Moro Plt	14-Dec-22	6	5	1	83	17
Sherman	20-Feb-23	50	45	5	90	10
Patten	13-Apr-23	121	75	46	62	38
Mount Chase	23-May-23	66	33	33	50	50

**KAT:  
See Mr.  
Roy's  
statistics  
above**

Landowners need to be able to make productive use of their land.

#### 4-Approval is the Start of a Long Process

Also keep in mind that the requested zone change is just a preliminary step in a long process. Approval will not change the environment or authorize anything other than filing an application under Chapter 200 of DEP's rules and certification under your rules.

If the project does not receive certification and a permit under Chapter 200, the zoning reverts back to the original subdistrict – Chapter 10.21,H.8.e. and Chapter 12 Section 4.D.

### C. CHAPTER 12 CRITERIA

Wolfden plans to mine the entire 7,000 acres they own with plans to mine a 30 kilometer stretch connected to the first exploratory mine.

#### 1. Chapter 12 Section 4.B(1)

The project will encompass less than 400 acres of a parcel that is over 7,000 acres. The existing uses or resources are timber production and the impact on other resources will be minimal because the only way the project can move forward is in compliance with DEP's Chapter 200 Section 11.

The purpose of a planned development district is to allow development of a particular natural feature, in this case minerals which are located under the parcel and are concentrated in a limited area. A planned development district is the only way this resource can be recovered and the application demonstrates that the change is consistent with the standards of the Planned Development Subdistrict.

The impact of the project on area timber production will be minimal as well. The site is in the middle of a vast commercial forest and taking 400 acres out of timber production in order to recover the minerals will not result in any undue impact on area timber resources or the timber resources on the 7,000 + acre parcel.

See Investor video for Wolfden's forecasted mining efforts:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7gCBU3ncC8>

#### 2. Chapter 12 Section 4.B(2)

As noted earlier, the population and employment opportunities for the Katahdin Region and the project area are a fraction of what they were even 10 years ago and the comparison to 20 years ago is even more striking.

The area needs help. The area needs jobs and economic opportunity such as those that will result from construction and operation of the project. People will go to work. The local people and businesses and the regional and local economies will benefit.

Negative impacts will be minimal since the project only goes forward in compliance with DEP's Chapter 200 Section 11.

### 3. Chapter 12 Section 4.B(3)

The project presents short term and long term positive socioeconomic benefits by directly and indirectly creating much needed employment in the area as well as direct and indirect local and regional purchases of goods and services.

#### D. Conclusion

We are pleased to support this project for the following reasons:

1-This project presents a unique real world demonstration of the multiple uses Maine forestlands are capable of maintaining. Not only will the parcel be used to generate significant amounts of critical minerals for our 21<sup>st</sup> century economy, but the parcel will continue in timber production and will continue to be available for public uses such as hunting, atv and snowmobile use. This project will fit harmoniously into the existing uses of the parcel with no conflict or competition for natural resources.

2-The construction phase of the project will produce significant economic benefits to an area of the State much in need of a shot in the arm. The employment opportunities for local residents will be welcome. The multiplier effect of the goods and services purchased by this project will be positive on a state wide basis.


3-The permanent jobs, ongoing purchases of goods and services, and property tax revenue over the life of the project will be beneficial additions to the local and state economies.

Northern Maine, the Katahdin Region and the project area in particular, have suffered long term job losses in traditional industries. This project will help stabilize the local economy in southern Aroostook and northern Penobscot counties and is very much needed in the area.

4-The ongoing production of fiber from this parcel of land will be a benefit to Maine's timber industry. This project presents a win-win situation. The State will realize not only the mineral benefits but also the long term timber production from the Wolfden parcel.

5-This project demonstrates the benefit to the landowner by allowing the highest and best use of its property which will improve the economics of the long term forest land investment for all landowners. Forest land owners are struggling with the changing economics of fiber production in LUPC's jurisdiction. Land owners need the opportunity to generate income from multiple uses of their land. This project is an excellent example of multiple beneficial uses of land for the public as well as the land owner.

Dated at Millinocket, Maine, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Elgin H. Turner, PLS

State of Maine

September 22, 2023

Penobscot, ss.

Personally appeared the above-named Elgin H. Turner, PLS, who first being duly sworn, made oath that the foregoing Pre Filed Testimony which he has signed and to which he subscribes is based on his own personal knowledge and that the facts set forth therein are true to the best of his information and belief.

Before me,

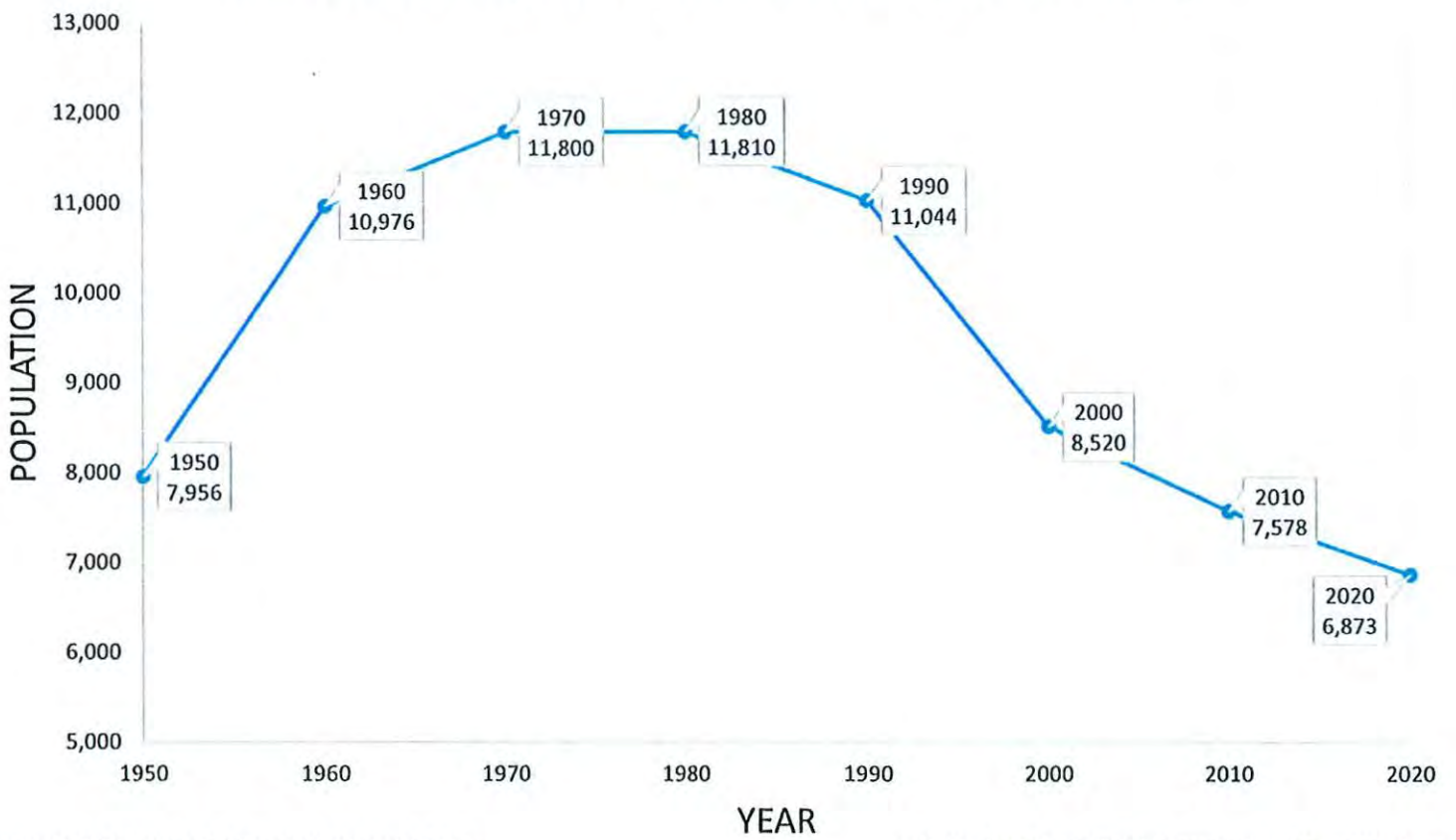
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean A. Beaupain

Attorney at Law



# Haynes Turner Exhibit 1

## Millinocket Region Population Data (1950 - 2020)

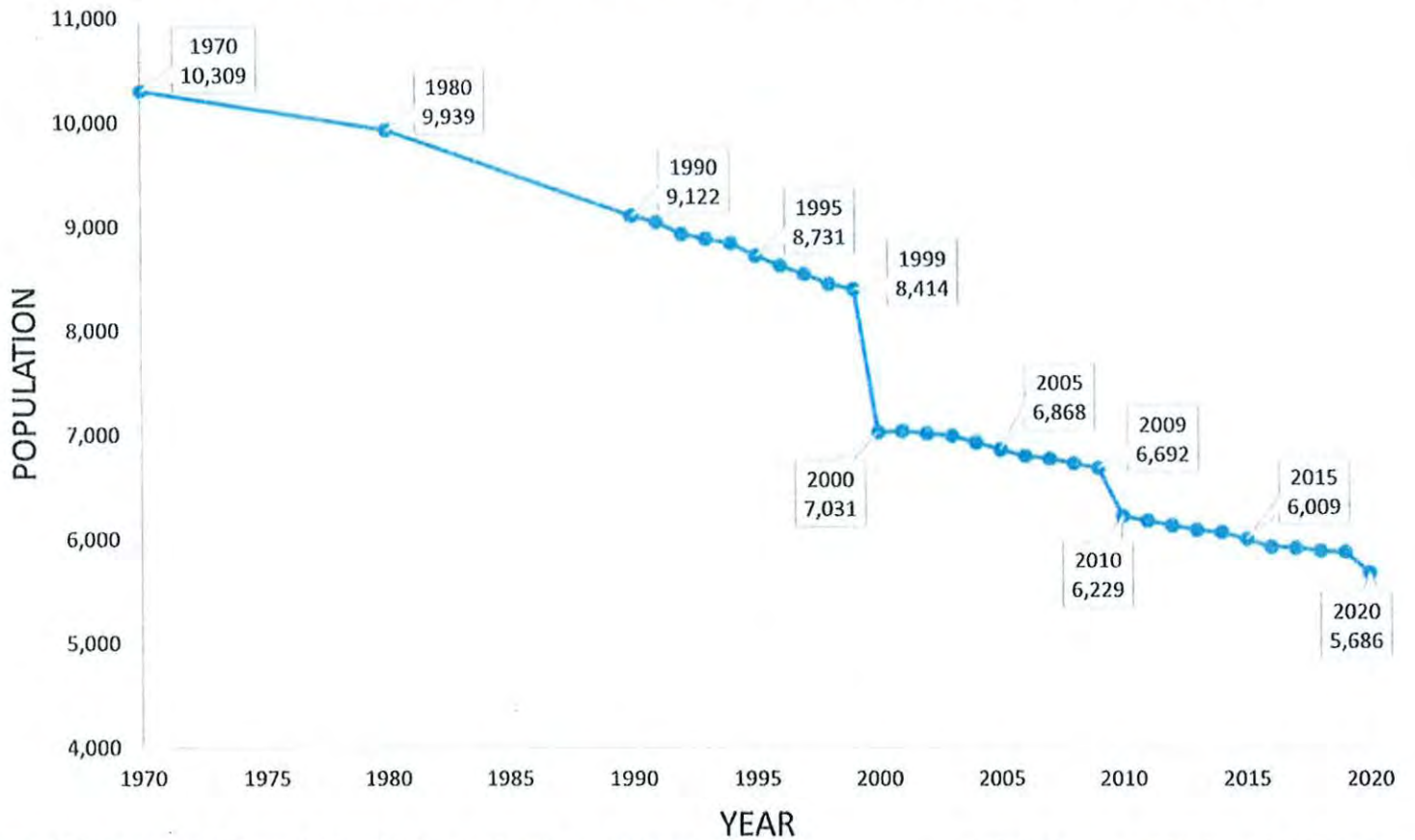


Source: U.S. Department of Commerce Decennial Census

Includes data from Millinocket, East Millinocket, and Medway

# Haynes Turner Exhibit 2

## Millinocket - East Millinocket Population Data (1970 - 2020)



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce Decennial Census and census.gov projections

Includes data from Millinocket and East Millinocket

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY  
LAND USE PLANNING COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF	)	PREFILED TESTIMONY
PETITION ZP 779A	)	H.C. HAYNES, INC.
WOLFDEN MT. CHASE, LLC	)	JOEL FITZPATRICK, RPh

**A. INTRODUCTION**

My name is Joel Fitzpatrick. I have resided in Patten, Maine for the last 27 years. I have been married for 34 years and have three adult daughters.

I was born and raised in Houlton Maine and graduated from the University of Rhode Island School of Pharmacy in 1991 and have been a licensed pharmacist in Maine ever since. I owned and operated the Patten Drug Co located at 20 Main St, Patten, Maine for 26 years. I currently operate Katahdin Brew Works located at 10 Katahdin Street, Patten, Maine, and work two days a week, as a pharmacist, for Katahdin Valley Health Care, the local rural health center. I am a member of the Patten Planning Board and a board member of the St. Agnes Catholic Church Parish Council.

As a local business owner, I have experienced the economic difficulties facing the region as time has gone on and our population has decreased. Over time, the level of business activity has gone down along with our population and the area needs job opportunities in order to retain its working age population and to grow our economy.

**A. THE PATTEN REGION AND PROJECT AREA**

The project area is notable for the following reasons:

**1-Patten Area Population and Job Losses**

The communities from Stacyville to Sherman to Patten to Island Falls have suffered ongoing population and job losses since I moved to Patten and for a long time before I moved to the area. US Census Bureau data and the applicant's economic study show the following:

Percent Change in Population		
Town	1990-2020	1980-2020
Patten	-29.9	-35.6
Sherman	-20.6	-20.2
Stacyville	-20.8	-31.4
Hersey	5.8	9.0
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Percent Change in Population Every 10 Years							
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Crystal	-7.8	-5.6	-5.9	-13.2	24.2	-1.4	-24.0
Island Falls	-9.4	5.5	-11.6	-8.6	7.4	-10.3	-18.0
Moro Plt	15.8	-39.7	65.8	26.7	25.0	-51.0	-41.7
Mount Chase	-7.0	-18.6	-2.8	9.0	18.3	10.1	-28.4
Millinocket	-8.7	-13.4	-25.2	-8.1	-2.3	5.8	24.6
East Millinocket	-8.8	-5.7	-15.6	-8.7	-7.6	7.3	76.1
Medway	-12.0	-9.4	-22.5	2.7	25.5	17.8	74.6
Houlton	-1.1	-5.5	-2.1	-2.3	-16.6	-2.1	-0.7
Lincoln	-4.6	-2.6	-6.6	10.3	6.5	4.8	16.3

### Population Growth

The population of the Pickett region has declined steadily since the 1970s and 1980s, mirroring changes in the forest products industry that once dominated the region (Chart 1). A series of mill layoffs and closures reduced employment opportunities, causing many residents to relocate. While some sites are being redeveloped, technological advances mean new operations do not require the thousands of workers mills once employed. Since 1990, Mount Chase's population has dwindled by 26%, Patten's by 30%, Millinocket LMA's by 31%, and Houlton LMA's by 10%. Today, 18,000 people live in Houlton LMA – 27% of Aroostook County's population and 1.3% of Maine's – and 9,100 people live in Millinocket LMA – 6% of Penobscot County's population and less than 1% of the state.

Exhibit 1 graphically depicts the long term population loss for Patten and Exhibit 2 shows the population loss for Patten since I moved to that community.

Since 1996 when I moved to Patten, Maine, I have seen many local mills close. The two mills in the Millinocket area, the starch factory in Island Falls and the plywood mill in Patten have all closed. The population in 1996 was about 1200 people. Now the population is about 880. There is no argument that the population and employment opportunities in northern Penobscot and southern Aroostook Counties has declined since we moved here in 1996. My children have said that they would not be returning to the northern Penobscot area. The reason they give is lack of jobs and activities that are offered in the Patten area.

As a small business owner, over the past five years, I have experienced more business activity in the Patten area. It would be great to see this continue even though we have not regained lost ground with respect to the overall business level. More infrastructure is needed in the greater Katahdin area to support any expanding or new business. I believe that the Pickett Mountain project could potentially add a substantial value to the greater Katahdin area.

We are surrounded by unorganized territories and you control land use. We need your help to provide jobs and economic opportunity in this area and we need it now.

### 3- Local Support

Area communities are in favor of this project because of the economic and job opportunities which will result from the project.

The town meeting votes were as follows:

Town	Date	Voters	In		% In	
			Favor	Against	Favor	Against
Stacyville	20-Jul-22	24	22	2	92	8
Hersey	6-Oct-22	12	11	1	92	8
Moro Plt	14-Dec-22	6	5	1	83	17
Sherman	20-Feb-23	50	45	5	90	10
Patten	13-Apr-23	121	75	46	62	38
Mount Chase	23-May-23	66	33	33	50	50

#### 4-Rezoning is One Step in a Process

Rezoning is the first step in a long permitting process.

Wolfden will be required to meet all State of Maine mining laws and DEP regulations. I ask this question, if a person or business can abide and perform within the laws and regulations set forth by the State of Maine or any of its governing bodies, then why shouldn't they be allowed to operate? Wolfden's land parcel should be rezoned if it can follow the Maine rules and laws. This does not guarantee that Wolfden will be cleared to mine the land parcel.

I think the Patten area is one of the most overlooked areas in Maine. It has beautiful views, lakes, rivers, mountains and other natural resources. I think the National Monument, Wolfden and other businesses have a great potential to rejuvenate the Northern Penobscot region. It would be great to be able to use all of the resources responsibly to benefit all.

#### 5- Balancing Test

Your October 5, 2012 Guidance for Interpreting the 2010 Comprehensive Plan in light of statutory changes to your mission calls for balancing the competing interests concerning development including those of local residents and landowners.

As you engage in balancing the approval criteria please keep in mind that if you do not approve this rezoning the status quo will not change and the Patten area will continue its long term population and economic decline. Approving the rezoning simply allows the process to move forward and if a mining permit is not issued, the zoning will revert to its pre petition status.

Dated at Sherman, Maine this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2023

  
Joel Fitzpatrick


State of Maine

September 22, 2023

Aroostook, ss.

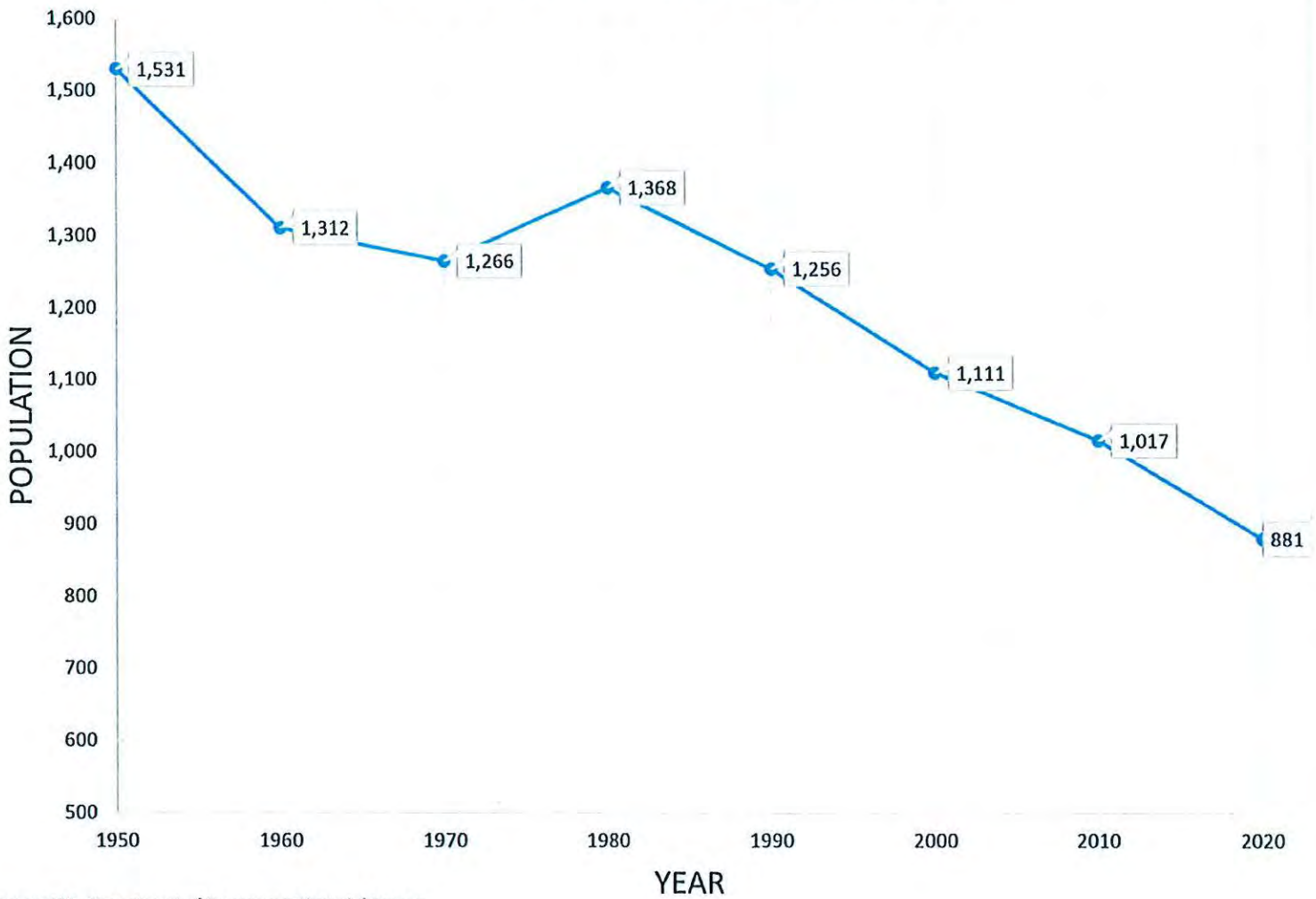
Personally appeared the above-named Joel Fitzpatrick, who first being duly sworn, made oath that the foregoing Pre Filed Testimony which he has signed and to which he subscribes is based on his own personal knowledge and that the facts set forth therein are true to the best of his information and belief.

Before me,

  
Dean A. Beaupain  
Attorney at Law/Notary Public

# Haynes Fitzpatrick Exhibit 1

## Patten Population Data (1950 - 2020)

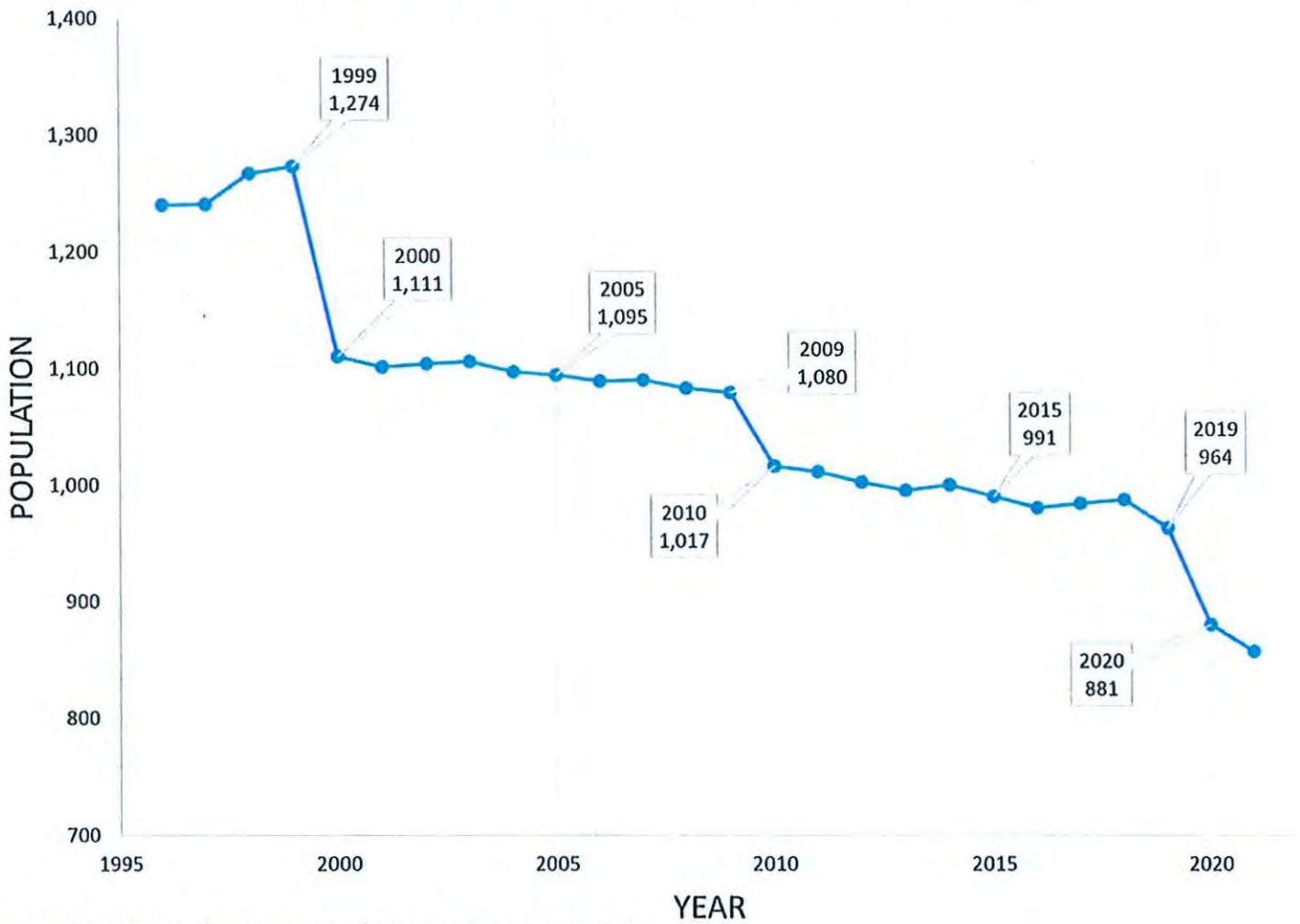


Source: U.S. Department of Commerce Decennial Census



# Hagnes Fitzpatrick Exhibit 2

## Patten Population Data (1996 - 2021)



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce Decennial Census and census.gov projections

**Carr, Tim**

---

**From:** Scott Okusko <scottokusko@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2023 9:14 AM  
**To:** LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning  
**Subject:** Wolfden Rezoning

**EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Commissioners,

I support the rezoning of Wolfden's proposed mining operation in T6 R6. The direct and indirect economic benefits to the area and the state would be huge. The geopolitical outlook of our state is in major trouble. Even around where I live many people move away after high school and don't return due to the lack of jobs, but it's a bigger problem in northern Maine. Populations are declining and the average age of residents is getting higher and higher. People aren't raising families in those communities anymore. Let's stop exporting our most valuable resource (young people) and start exporting raw materials. With the sanctions on Russia and North America trying to reindustrialize, we have an opportunity, and if we don't take that opportunity we will become a farm for areas that have economic activity.

This would be a small underground mine operating in one of the most highly regulated jurisdictions in the world. The company is not responsible for poorly regulated operations of the past (like Callahan) that caused environmental damage and shouldn't be compared to them. These groups opposing the project had a lot of say in the mining regulations and were supportive of the final result, stating "The provisions in LD 820, combined with a ban on open-pit mining and wet mine waste management, would give Maine strict and clear protections from mining pollution." Now they are attacking a company for attempting to permit under these same regulations.

These aggressive opposition groups switch up their attacks depending on the project details by slandering the company and promoting baseless fear. One day, they're posting about the green agenda and the next it's evil mining companies. What isn't grown is mined and clean energy initiatives require metals. This is NIMBY at its finest. I'm very aware of the NIMBY crowd from my oyster farming days where I was growing a product that cleaned the water and exported nicely. It should have been a major boom to the local economies of the coast, yet at the meetings all I got was a bunch of people calling me a seal killer.

The paper mills are gone, and we struggle to compete with Canadian lumber. If not this then what will keep the north going? Who will take care of them in their nursing homes in 15 to 20 years? You can't say no to everything before due diligence process. There are two futures ahead, one where we participate in the production of the resources we use, and one where we remain dependent. These anti-mining groups spend millions fighting industry within the US while gobbling up resources from overseas where people and the environment suffer and have no means to fight. They do this while promoting humanism and equality, but their actions are hypocritical.

If I lived closer to the area, I'd consider applying for a job there if the Commission approves the rezoning and the DEP issues a mining permit. I'm sure there are a lot of younger or middle-aged people in the region who see this as an exciting opportunity that won't come around again in their lifetime. Give northern Maine a chance to rebuild and redevelop the communities that used to exist there 30 years ago.

Sincerely

Scott Okusko

**Carr, Tim**

---

**From:** William Komulainen <billkconsulting@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 15, 2023 2:28 PM  
**To:** LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning  
**Subject:** Chase Mine

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I fully support the development of the Chase Mine. The state citizen's clearly support economic development. It's the folks who have been twisted by scare tactics who are in denial of the facts. Darn, this is Maine, Grow up.

Bill Komulainen,  
Camden

Sent from my iPhone

**Carr, Tim**

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**From:** William Komulainen <billkconsulting@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2023 12:26 PM  
**To:** LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Noise, noise, noise. By nimbys as well as clueless southern Maine idealists.

The Chase mine can positively affect the rare earth mineral supply that is so critical to green transportation. It's Curious that those that fight against the mine are very often those that cry out about moving towards low carbon emissions.

Approve the mining operation!

Bill,

Camden

Many of the opponents are Mainers from Patten, Mt. Chase and other northern towns and other rural areas from all over the state.

Sent from my iPhone

**Carr, Tim**

---

**From:** Karen Page <kleep152@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2023 3:09 PM  
**To:** LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning

**EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Commissioners,

I'm a lifelong Maine resident and I'm asking you to consider Wolfden's rezoning proposal. This particular part of northern Maine needs the jobs. Driving through the area now is very different than it was 30 years ago. There was once a vibrant, family-oriented feel to the communities and now the population is aging, poverty is increasing, and several businesses have closed.

We should be mining the necessary minerals for our country's clean energy and infrastructure projects where it is heavily regulated instead of importing them from countries that don't have the same standards.

The area deserves a chance to keep the communities alive and to retain some of the younger generation. This won't happen without employment opportunities.

Sincerely,

Karen Page  
Bucksport, ME

Carr, Tim

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**From:** KATAHDIN LODGE <lodge@katahdinlodge.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 8:33 AM  
**To:** LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning  
**Subject:** Wolfden Resources Pickett Mtn. Project rezoning  
**Attachments:** Wolfden Rezoning.doc

**EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

**Wolfden Rezoning**  
**10-16-23**

**My name is Chuck Loucka and my family & I live close to the Wolfden Resources Pickett Mtn. project site - approx. 5 miles east on State Rt. 11 in the adjoining township of Moro Plantation. Our family also runs a lodging business on our property. I am a town selectman, road commissioner, Inland Fisheries agent, Knowles Corner ATV Club president and part time music teacher.**

**I truly believe in the overall benefits of this project, both economically and occupational. Also strategically to help decrease our reliance on foreign countries to obtain certain resources specifically precious metals that all of us use in our daily lives - such as our automobiles, electronic devices, and a whole long list of products necessary for us to maintain our lifestyles. Some of these countries are even hostile to us and our Canadian neighbors. And there are also those that use child labor. For these reasons I agreed earlier this year to volunteer on the Wolfden Community Advisory Board which meets in Patten.**

**Over the past few years I have attended countless meetings and informational sessions about the construction, operation and mining environmental safety concerns. Any questions or concerns were met with truthful concise answers, and/or an invitation for an "eyes on" look at the project. Wolfden resources has been completely supportive from day 1 to the surrounding communities and also to the**

**local outdoorsmen. The company purchased the property for their mining site and I believe that they will continue to follow all the stringent regulations that our federal, state and local governments have put forth on them. Therefore, they should be free to pursue their business project.**

**I strongly support the Wolfden Pickett Mtn. Project and urge the LUPC to approve their request for rezoning.**

**Chuck Loucka  
626 Aroosrook Scenic hwy  
Moro Plantation,  
ME 04780**



Carr, Tim

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**From:** Matt Heath <mheath1633@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 20, 2023 3:50 PM  
**To:** LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning  
**Subject:** Public opinion letter

**EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Commissioners,

I'm a Patten resident and my family has been here for generations. I support the rezoning so Wolfden can move to the next phase of the project. What we voted on during the Patten vote last April was not supporting the construction of a mine but allowing due process to take place under government oversight. Wolfden should be allowed to continue doing their testing and research as long as they follow all the rules and regulations set forth until it's proven that they can't do so.

This town and the area towns need a boost to the economy. We need jobs and we need tax revenue for our communities, schools, and public safety departments as well as opportunities for the younger generation to work locally and have a good paying job. The seasonal tourism and recreation industry doesn't provide enough for the average person living in this area.

I was not always in support of this project, but what I've seen over the last couple of years is a company making an effort to communicate with the towns and address people's concerns. After they do their studies and figure out the actual environmental and economic potential, I'll make my decision on whether or not to support the mine. For now, there is no harm that can come to our region by allowing the rezoning to go through. All environmental and habitat data coming out of their studies is important information to have even if they don't get approved for a mining permit.

There are serious issues with implicit bias in our media relating to this project and other state and country wide issues. To name a couple, The Bangor Daily News, The County, and Maine Public have been especially negative on this project from the start. It seems like if a reporter doesn't support a project, they only interview those who share the same view and slander the company and its employees. This in turn creates fear and anger in those who are reading the article and know little to nothing about the project or the mining rules. Some of the comments on these biased articles are absurd, like Wolfden is going to blow the top off Pickett Mountain and build a huge open pit mine. Or it's such a bad thing that they are a Canadian company. Would these people rather have Wolfden be a Chinese company? There are no mining companies in Maine or New England, and very few in the eastern US. Maine is bordered on two sides by Canada and it's already our biggest trade partner.

What's happening in the media on this project is a smear campaign and those who are uneducated on it jump right on board, and since there are more of them and fewer of us in this rural area, our voices get drowned out by the louder, emotional people who take what these reporters (and a few retired locals) say as the gospel.

Please prioritize the opinions of locals who need to work for a living when making your decision.

Thank you,

Matthew G Heath  
Patten, ME 04765

Sent from my iPhone



# SUPPORT SENATOR DISTRICT 3

Brad Farrin  
Senator, District 3

131<sup>st</sup> MAINE SENATE

3 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

## Testimony of Senator Brad Farrin In Support of Wolfden Resources Pickett Mountain Mining Project October 20, 2023

I am Brad Farrin and I represent the people of Senate District 3, which includes towns in Kennebec, Penobscot, and Somerset counties. I am writing today in support of the Wolfden Resources Pickett Mountain Mining Project.

This metallic mine located in T6-R6 about 10 miles north from Patten contains zinc, copper, lead, gold and silver. Pursuing this project would have several positive impacts on our state. One of which would be potentially adding 270+ jobs to the region with training programs at the local community colleges and vocational centers with these jobs having an average starting pay of nearly 6 figures. Educating Mainers and providing them with great paying jobs that aid in obtaining metals that power the grid and support the EV revolution would be great progress for the state.

Wolfden is committed to maintaining their reputation of the highest mining standards in North America and is poised to be the new standard in Mining. Wolfden was supported by the Natural Resources Council of Maine in 2017 with acknowledgment that if a mine can work within the guidelines then it would be safe to operate in Maine which they are fully committed to doing.

In Wolfden's assessment of social and infrastructural impacts, they found there would be no negative impact from this project on the following after thorough studies and evaluations were completed: water and wetlands, noise, recreational resources, archaeology, plant and wildlife, traffic, schools, emergency services, solid waste management, and power supply.

One of the more prevalent concerns voiced in regard to this project has been water contamination. Maine has strict rules associated with water treatment and discharge back into the environment. Any water that is discharged must be the same as the background quality which is strictly monitored and enforced. Wolfden is aware of these concerns and will be incorporating a modern water treatment plant to remove metals and chemicals which will aid in adjusting the water pH to background levels. To make sure the water attains the background levels prior to discharge the water will be placed in a holding pond as a preventative measure to test and confirm background levels have been met. After this testing, the water will be discharged back to groundwater using a diffuser into the ground. The ground and surface waters will be regularly tested and reported to DEP in a public format.

Thank you,

Brad Farrin  
State Senator

inaccurate #

Fact check

Juniper Ridge Landfill's leachate toxicity violate's this rule with impunity

**Carr, Tim**

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**From:** Matt Heath <mheath1633@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 20, 2023 3:50 PM  
**To:** LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning  
**Subject:** Public opinion letter

**EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Commissioners,

I'm a Patten resident and my family has been here for generations. I support the rezoning so Wolfden can move to the next phase of the project. What we voted on during the Patten vote last April was not supporting the construction of a mine but allowing due process to take place under government oversight. Wolfden should be allowed to continue doing their testing and research as long as they follow all the rules and regulations set forth until it's proven that they can't do so.

This town and the area towns need a boost to the economy. We need jobs and we need tax revenue for our communities, schools, and public safety departments as well as opportunities for the younger generation to work locally and have a good paying job. The seasonal tourism and recreation industry doesn't provide enough for the average person living in this area.

I was not always in support of this project, but what I've seen over the last couple of years is a company making an effort to communicate with the towns and address people's concerns. After they do their studies and figure out the actual environmental and economic potential, I'll make my decision on whether or not to support the mine. For now, there is no harm that can come to our region by allowing the rezoning to go through. All environmental and habitat data coming out of their studies is important information to have even if they don't get approved for a mining permit.

There are serious issues with implicit bias in our media relating to this project and other state and country wide issues. To name a couple, The Bangor Daily News, The County, and Maine Public have been especially negative on this project from the start. It seems like if a reporter doesn't support a project, they only interview those who share the same view and slander the company and its employees. This in turn creates fear and anger in those who are reading the article and know little to nothing about the project or the mining rules. Some of the comments on these biased articles are absurd, like Wolfden is going to blow the top off Pickett Mountain and build a huge open pit mine. Or it's such a bad thing that they are a Canadian company. Would these people rather have Wolfden be a Chinese company? There are no mining companies in Maine or New England, and very few in the eastern US. Maine is bordered on two sides by Canada and it's already our biggest trade partner.

What's happening in the media on this project is a smear campaign and those who are uneducated on it jump right on board, and since there are more of them and fewer of us in this rural area, our voices get drowned out by the louder, emotional people who take what these reporters (and a few retired locals) say as the gospel.

Please prioritize the opinions of locals who need to work for a living when making your decision.

Thank you,

Matthew G Heath  
Patten, ME 04765

Sent from my iPhone

# SUPPORT MT CHASE

Carr, Tim

---

**From:** Edwin Macarthur <edwinmacarthur@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2023 9:47 AM  
**To:** LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning  
**Subject:** Support for rezoning

**EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

We are writing in support of the Wolfden mining project. This project would provide much needed economic benefit to our Mount Chase region at very little cost to the environment.. We have attended several of their presentations and believe the technology proposed for this project more than adequately protects the environmental concerns expressed by some people. The location of the site is remote and cannot be a "visual eyesore" to anyone.

The elemental metal products to be obtained from this mining project are greatly needed by the United States society to support its continued dominance in technology advancement. We should not have to rely on foreign countries, using child labor, to mine these elements for us. In our daily lives, we all use products requiring the elements proposed to be extracted. Batteries, televisions, cell phones, computers, and the list goes on!

We urge LUPC to favorably endorse this proposed Zoning change to allow this project to proceed to the permit phase.

Respectfully

Edwin H. Macarthur,P.E.  
Lic. No. 2933  
edwinmacarthur@aol.com

Judith M. MacArthur  
Teacher, Ret.

10 McPhee Lane  
Mount Chase, Maine 04765

October 24, 2023

# SUPPORT MANHATTEN BEACH, CA

Dear Commissioners,

I was born and raised in Maine and I own property along the Penobscot River as well as near Acadia National Park. I dearly love Maine but I worry about the sustainability of the future for the state, as we all know that the population is aging and so many younger residents, such as myself, have moved away to ensure the ability to have careers that can support expanding our families and opportunities.

As someone who is both conscious of the importance of the environment as well as the future of our communities, finding the right balance is a goal that we should all strive to achieve. I've been following this project for the past year and due to the positive economic impacts projected for the state, and particularly northern Maine, I support the rezoning approval so the project can, at a minimum, undergo additional studies.

I have learned a lot from the public education campaigns as well as the thoughtful and passionate public comments on both sides. I understand that the major concerns were addressed, such as open-pit metal mining, water quality requirements, geographical constraints, financial assurance, etc. If Maine only allows small, environmentally responsible underground mining, which I think is fantastic, it seems like this type of deposit could fit the bill. Why not fully investigate the potential?

I think this proposal requires serious consideration from the residents of northern Maine who would be impacted the most. From following some news articles about the company and project, it sounds like the media is in staunch opposition. Is there really no middle ground? How do the people near the project feel about it?

These issues are just not so black and white and we need to get back to basics and remember that. This shouldn't be this divisive to a community that is already fragile and in need of support. Where is the civility? We need to find the balance and truly be thoughtful in how to proceed to be mindful and inclusive as to how to truly protect the environment, the future of Maine and Mainers alike.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoints.

Respectfully,

Sarah Matloff  
Manhattan Beach, CA

**Carr, Tim**

**From:** nathanswallow2013@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2023 1:56 PM  
**To:** LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning  
**Subject:** Re zoning

**EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Sent from my iPhone Dear Commissioners,

I live in Oakfield and have worked in the exploration and mining industry for several years. I've worked on remote drilling programs in Alaska and know firsthand that there are very strong regulations in place in terms of the environment and safety. Maine's regulations are no exception and are built to protect the environment at every step. Most of the negative comments on this proposal are from people with no experience or knowledge of the mining industry. People seem to think mining companies are out to get them while they provide millions of jobs across the world and produce the materials that we use on a daily basis. If you are anti-mining, you have to also be against everything we use on planet earth that isn't grown. Maybe it's just that they want to use all of the products of mining, but not contribute or have any mining done anywhere near them. They are okay with someone else doing all the work while they reap the benefits.

I support the rezoning and I think this would be a good thing for northern Maine and the rest of the state if it can pass through the DEP process. I also have first hand experience and had to do a lot of training and classes to work in the industry. Including MSHA training so I know how heavily regulated and environmentally safe is thru the process. From exploration all the way into the mines.

Thank you,  
 Nathan Swallow  
 Oakfield, Maine

### Mining disasters in Alaska

Date	Mine Name	Location	Mineral	Disaster Cause	Killed	Report
07/19/2007	<a href="#">Nome Operations</a>	Nome, AK	Gold	Machinery	2	
01/18/1957	<a href="#">Evan Jones</a>	Jonesville, AK	Bituminous	Explosion	5	
03/15/1943	<a href="#">Atkinson Quarry</a>	Excursion Inlet, AK	Rock	Explosives	5	
10/26/1937	<a href="#">Jonesville</a>	Jonesville, AK	Bituminous	Fire	14	
12/09/1912	<a href="#">Great Northern Development</a>	Cordova, AK	Gold	Avalanche	9	
09/28/1911	<a href="#">Shakespeare Placer</a>	Dome Creek, AK	Gold	Cave-in	0	
03/02/1910	<a href="#">Alaska-Mexican</a>	Treadwell, AK	Gold	Explosives	37	

[https://usminedisasters.miningquiz.com/Mine\\_Disasters/search\\_all\\_state.asp?ACC\\_STATE\\_NAME=Alaska](https://usminedisasters.miningquiz.com/Mine_Disasters/search_all_state.asp?ACC_STATE_NAME=Alaska)



**Carr, Tim**

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**From:** Steve <Palmers@maine.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2023 10:41 AM  
**To:** LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning  
**Subject:** Allow mining, drilling and whatever else is needed in our capitalistic society for growth and stability.

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I think Maine needs to develop all resources, natural, people, business. The classic argument is development vs conservation. We need a balance of that in our democracy. It's time to stop with the politics of conservation vs development in the state of Maine and the country as a whole.

All resources that Americans are/have as individuals and as a country need to be developed. That's called growth. Status quo is not acceptable in anything in this country. We all know that has to be balanced, and we have to stop expanding the money supply while depressing productivity. That is social experimenting and rigging our economy. I.e. Marxism.

Economics 101 my friends. The laws of supply and demand.

Sociology 101 fact, we humans are hunter gatherers and we contribute to human evolution.

Sent from my iPad

**Carr, Tim**

---

**From:** Fitz7446@roadrunner.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2023 10:47 AM  
**To:** LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning  
**Subject:** Wolfden Rezoning Support Letter

**EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

October 25, 2023

Dear LUPC staff and Commissioners,

After attending the hearing in Bangor on October 23, I feel compelled to add my opinion.

I grew up in Patten and love this area of our state. I have recently been renting to Wolfden and have enjoyed our communication and talks about what they want to do for the area. The money they have paid in rent has all gone back to the area; to carpenters, house cleaners, lawn mowing, , snow plowing, household supplies, groceries, hardware store and the list goes on. This is just one example of how they have impacted the area.

**LUPC doesn't make the rules**

My big concern is that the LUCP has made the laws/rules. If a company can meet the laws/rules, what is preventing their application to go to the next steps? Tough to move forward if you move “the goal posts.”

The area needs more jobs and industry.

Everyone is allowed to use the lands that the company owns no matter who they are or where they are from. They have lived and worked in Patten for five years already. They are not new and unknown, they are good people and have been informing me of their project.

The project so far seems to be protective of the environment as required by the new mining laws.

Please approve the rezoning so that the local people at least have some hope and a chance to see if the project can satisfy the new mining law. There is no harm to anything in trying and all the people of Maine can discuss this again if it gets to a public hearing 2-3 years from now. We all know our country will need a lot more of these critical metals by then along with a good local supply of them.

Thank you for your support.

Regards

Ruth

# SUPPORT MT CHASE

Carr, Tim

---

**From:** Beth Anne Carver <cornerstonedrive@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2023 3:26 PM  
**To:** LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning  
**Subject:** Mining Project

**EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Commissioners,

We are writing in support of Wolfden's rezoning application for the proposed mining operation in T6 R6. We are Mount Chase residents and own a home that overlooks Mount Chase and Pickett Mountain. We've been able to attend local meetings and ask questions about the environmental protections and mining plans, and after discussing with other community members, we agree that this project could have positive impacts on our region.

We live here for the beautiful environment and slower pace of life, and we also want to see job opportunities for the community and an economic boost for our local businesses. We may feel differently if this would be a large strip mine or if those working for Wolfden didn't seem interested in the locals opinions, but what we've seen is a company trying their best to inform us of both the risks and benefits.

At least let Wolfden move to the next step of the process and determine to a higher degree of certainty what the environmental and economic impacts of this mine would be. Why wouldn't we evaluate the possibilities? Please consider the comments from those who live local and will be most affected by the project.

Thank you,  
BethAnne & Dana Carver  
Mount Chase, ME

# SUPPORT LIVES 10 MILES FROM WOLF DEN PROPERTY WORKS FOR WOLF DEN

**Carr, Tim**

---

**From:** Zack Austin <z.austin426@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2023 7:54 AM  
**To:** LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning  
**Subject:** Wolfden Rezoning Petition Letter

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom this may concern,

I have been a resident of the area for approximately 29 years. I grew up ten miles from the Wolfden property, and currently live about thirty miles away. I have been working in the drilling/mining industry since 2010, working across the state of Alaska, and jobs in other states such as Michigan, North Carolina, and even here in Maine, on the Wolfden property. I have drilled there for 2 different companies. Yes having experience helps me tremendously, but I also know they are willing to train because I spent a lot of time doing so, giving opportunities to several young men around the area. The ones who got the chance and stuck around, made good money for their families, and more work opportunities developing a new work relationship with new companies. These companies will hire when working local, and can employ these people beyond that if they are willing to travel. But for the ones who want to work close to home because of families, opportunities for 10-15 years of continuous work don't come around every day. There needs to be more work opportunities for the people around here and less people pushing them away. I know from first hand experience that Wolfdens presence in our area has provided work for many local residents. Some young some older. Some liked the work, some didn't. The fuel and oil products they consume and buy local, parts, vehicle and equipment repair the need to have done at our local shops and businesses, the food they buy from our grocery stores and restaurants is daily and helps people not even involved with the projects. Another expample, logging is probably the number one worked job in aroostook county, if not it's up there. People don't mind them clear cutting millions of acres. This is no different. First thing Wolfden did with their property in Patten was give a 4.5 million dollar contract to HC Haynes, a well know logging company. I passed them daily on my commutes to work. They sold the wood, and put the money back into the land and spent the money on employing others and buying supplies around our area. And if Wolfden is granted the approval, after it's all said and done, the relationships people will gain not only from Wolfden but also companies they bring in, could be job opportunities for years to come, for those who want to be close to home, and those who want to travel. This is only a rezoning decision and the full potential of this project should be properly evaluated for the people of northern Maine. Thanks for your time.

Best regards,

Zack Austin

if they are willing to travel they can find jobs now, not in 4-6 years  
Zack makes my case for me  
He worked out of state to gain experience  
but he will have to keep moving if he wants to keep working.  
10-15 years of work is a poor tradeoff since Mainers, who were born here, have managed to live in Maine for generations by 'getting by' rather than getting rich.

**Carr, Tim**


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**From:** Carl Wilcox <cwilcox.maine@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2023 10:06 AM  
**To:** LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning  
**Subject:** Rezoning of area north of Pickett Mountain Pond

**EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear LUPC,

I'm Carl Wilcox, a resident of Minot, Maine. I have a BS degree in geology from Purdue University and a Masters in Environmental Engineering from Purdue. I was born and raised in Maine and have lived for more than 50 years in Maine. I'm a practicing licensed professional wastewater engineer with most of my career in industrial wastewater treatment. I have no connection with Wolfen or this project. Years ago I did a small amount of work at Bald Mountain west of Portage and I did a fair amount of work for Knox Nickel at the Warren, Maine deposit. That project did not proceed because the town of Warren voted for zoning to ban mining in the town.

I support the rezoning of an area north of Pickett Mountain Pond for mining. Four hundred some odd acres is not a large area in the north woods. Additionally, presumably as a condition of the operating permit to be issued by Maine DEP, if a mine is approved, it will require reforestation after mining is completed after about 20-years. 

While in the press it has been falsely reported in editorials to the Portland Press Herald that the mine will allegedly be seen from Katahdin, I do not believe that to be the case. Though I have not performed a visual impact study. The site is approximately 2.4 miles to the north east of Mt. Chase which is about 1,200 feet taller. Mt. Chase will block the mine from the Woods and Waters National Mountain. A 160 foot tall ridge next to the mine deposit will largely if not completely block the mine site from Katahdin.

Claims that water from the mine will contaminate the National Monument are false. Unless the developer intends to install a force main and pump the mine waste water several miles to the west to the watershed that drains to the National Monument, site wastewater and runoff will drain to the east within the Mattawamkeag River watershed.

The task at hand to LUPC is if a mine is a reasonable use of the regions resources. It is up to Maine DEP to develop and approve the operating permits that will assure compliance with state regulations.

It is not that difficult to treat mine water. Technology developed within Maine Co-Mag, now its technology has been sold to an out of state firm (though some Co-Mag equipment is still being manufactured in New Gloucester, Maine), was implemented years ago at Doe Run owned mines in southern Missouri. Those five mines have similar mineralogy to this deposit containing primarily lead but with zinc and copper. Doe Run's wastewater sustainability data can be found in the following link.

<https://doerun.com/sustainability/performance-data/>

Note that the effluent has < 10 ppb lead, < 3 ppb copper and < 200 ppb zinc. The zinc effluent concentration is sufficient for the receiving stream. If it had needed to be lower, a two step precipitation process could have been implemented. The solubility of different metals differs with pH. Of course there are other processes that could be utilized such as ion exchange. If needed, and economically viable, the mine water could be completely deionized. Mine water treatment is not difficult as long as it can be done within the economics of the mine to which it is being applied.

Maine Environmental Laboratory, LLC

1 Main Street  
Yarmouth, Maine 04096  
(207) 846-9065; [fmbeck@fmbeck.net](mailto:fmbeck@fmbeck.net)

October 27, 2023

Dear Land Use Planning Commission Commissioners,

I write this letter in support of rezoning the area of interest in T6 -R6, Penobscot County, being requested by Wolfden Resources Corporation. I have listened to and watched some of the live testimony during the recently ended hearings and was surprised by the lack of understanding by many about what is being considered.

The rezoning issue should have nothing to do with Wolfden, the current owners of the land. The issue should be to consider whether mining, strictly controlled by our DEP, is an appropriate activity in this or any other unorganized township. Wolfden may or may not be able to meet the very strict requirements of our DEP. That is up to the DEP to decide. These requirements, both financial and environmental, are considered the toughest of any in North America.

Mining is the basic underpinning of all our industries, our national security, and of course our comfortable standard of living. Unfortunately, many of residents in Maine are totally unaware of how dependent we all are on mines. Currently, most of the metals we use come from other countries, China and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) being major suppliers. Environmental rules in these countries are far less stringent than Maine's rules. Tragically, families and children, known as artisanal miners in the DRC, account for 10 to 15 percent of that country's cobalt exports to the United States. Wolfden CEO Ron Little worked for 25 years mining gold in Africa

If we in Maine want to take responsibility for contributing to the "Green Revolution", in other words to reduce our dependence on petroleum while maintaining our present standard of living, then we should be encouraging the responsible extraction of critical metals of which Maine has many. A recent discovery in northern Aroostook County of rare earth elements (REE) is a prime example. There are 15 metals considered REEs, most unknown by the general public, but critical to the manufacture of a wide range of products including computers, batteries, camera lenses, catalytic converters, solar panels and electric vehicles to name a few. China accounts for 90 percent of all global REE production. The Aroostook County REE deposit is located in T15-R6, an unorganized township. No company will be interested in investing time and money to further explore and define this critically important deposit if it appears likely that a zoning change request will almost certainly be denied based on the precedent set by this Commission if it decides not to rezone the Wolfden parcel.

A refusal to rezone the Wolfden parcel will send a strong message to responsible exploration groups that may have been interested in exploring for critical metals in Maine. Exploration itself, not mining, has contributed millions of dollars to the local economy in past years. During the 1980s, following the 1977 discovery of copper and zinc near Bald Mountain northwest of Ashland, it is estimated that at least ten million dollars per year was spent by several exploration companies, most of these dollars staying in Maine as salaries, wages, payments to local contractors and lease payments to property owners.

Approving the request for a zone change will not allow Wolfden to mine the deposit. But it will give them or any other company an opportunity to work with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to develop a mine plan which meets the strict financial and environmental requirements our Legislature has required and which the DEP is fully capable of enforcing.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick M. Beck, CG-19  
President

**Carr, Tim**

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**From:** Bonnie Collins <blcollinsrn1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 29, 2023 3:41 PM  
**To:** LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning  
**Subject:** Mine proposal

**EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

To whom it may concern:

I fully support the mine in Northern Maine as long as it is done in an environmentally responsible way. Limiting impact to the environment including wildlife and waterways.

It would be a boost for the local economy and businesses in that area and provide much needed jobs as the timber economy and papermills have shutdown.

Thank you,  
Bonnie Collins



**Carr, Tim**

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**From:** david brown <brown4182@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2023 12:31 PM  
**To:** LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning  
**Subject:** Comment on Wolfden rezoning

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear LUPC

It sure seems like Wolfden has committed the time, money, and expertise to warrant an approval from the LUPC. The locals citizens and regional politicians seemed to be largely in favor.

If we can efficiently build an electric car in this country then certainly we can extract the raw materials in a clean and safe way to help build the infrastructure for the next generation. The technical requirements for the clean operation of the mine have been established by the authorities in Maine for benefit of all in Maine.

Please grant Wolfden a prompted approval and let the development process begin step by step Sincerely David Brown  
Canonsburg Pa.

Sent from my iPad

**Carr, Tim**

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**From:** Chris Tucker <ctucker@lnerof.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 1, 2023 6:12 AM  
**To:** LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning  
**Subject:** Picket Mountain

**EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Maine Land Use Planning Commission  
Attention: Tim Carr  
22 State House Station, 18 Elkins Lane  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022

Re: Pickett Mountain Mine Rezoning Application, ZP 779A – Wolfden Mt. Chase LLC

Dear Mr. Carr & Commissioners:

I write to support Wolfden Resource's petition for rezoning of a portion of the Pickett Mountain Project, and the company's attempt to set a new standard in responsible mining for critical minerals.

The Pickett Mountain Project affords the state the option to become a leader in the business of responsible mining. The company is committed to using the latest technology, backed by long-term commitments and funding to ensure any/all water used in the process is recycled in the operations process or returned to the ground through proper safeguards (i.e., that same water is returned as clean or cleaner than it originated). The opportunity for the state of Maine, its workers and the company is unrivaled and the state and the company can set national, even international, precedent in how to build, run, and reclaim a modern-functioning mine. As well, the state reaps revenue, as clean mining helps restore jobs lost due to the erosion of paper companies through digitalization.

Great opportunity lies right before us, to see how technological advancements can contribute to the 'greening' of our economy. Wolfden Resources is poised to produce the very minerals (zinc, lead, copper, silver, and gold) that allow replacement of carbon-burning fuels. The Pickett Project allows the Company and the State to showcase modern responsible mining to the highest standard in the county, and in doing so, contributing revenue to the state and jobs to its citizens. The state has stated it's open for clean mining; let's allow Wolfden to continue its study work under the DEP process so that it has the opportunity to showcase what modern mining methods offer.

I would also like to add that I am a camp/land owner on upper shin pond in Mount Chase.

I also represent the Laborers international union of North America as a Regional Organizer and have been a member of Laborers local union 327 in Augusta Maine.

I am a lifetime resident of Winterport Maine.

Please support this project.

Thanks

Chris Tucker  
207-951-6280

LIUNA local 327  
Sent from my iPhone

**To: Maine Land Use Planning Commission**

**RE: Pickett Mountain Mine Rezoning Application, ZP 779A-Wolfdon Mt. Chase LLC**

My name is Michael Scully. I live in Bangor, Maine and I am representing myself with this statement. I am writing in Support of Wolfdon Mt. Chase's application to rezone a small portion of T6-R6, Maine so that they may continue their efforts to develop a mineral prospect there.

I am a Maine licensed geologist with a BA degree in geology (1980) from the University of Maine and an MS degree in geology and geophysics (1988) from the University of Missouri-Rolla. My master's thesis was a study of the geology and mineralogy of the Mount Chase (Pickett Mountain) deposit. I am currently part owner of a geophysical services company known as Northeast Geophysical Services. Our business is mainly engaged in working on environmental site investigation and remediation projects as well as on private and public water supply projects. We are based in Bangor but work on projects all over the northeastern US as well as occasionally in the southeast, Midwest, Canada, and the Caribbean. Our company did provide some consulting and field services to Wolfdon early in their involvement on the Pickett Mountain project.

Following the 1977 discovery of the large Bald Mountain massive sulfide deposit in T12-R8, Maine there was renewed interest in exploring for base and precious metals in Maine. Several exploration/mining companies established offices in Maine and hired crews to carry out the exploration field work. As a result, immediately following our graduation from U. Maine Rudy and I and several other recent graduates got good paying jobs working on the mineral exploration projects in northern Maine. The Mount Chase deposit was subsequently discovered in 1979 and underwent further exploration and development efforts over the next several years. Drilling companies and analytical labs were kept very busy through most of the 1980s and into the early 1990s. Local economies benefited greatly through employment of local crew members, lodging rentals, sales of supplies, groceries, fuel, and maintenance of vehicles. Many millions of dollars were spent on these efforts just in northern Maine. There were similar efforts going on at the same time in western Maine where the Ledge Ridge and Alder Pond deposits were discovered.

I attended the rezoning application public hearing in Bangor on October 23rd and I must admit that the pro-rezoning presenters really took it on the chin that night. The intervener groups really did an excellent job getting their members out and prepared to make their comments. My wife and I are both members of the National and Maine Audubon societies because we love watching and listening to birds and enjoying Maine's many beautiful natural resources. As a Maine Audubon member I received their "Action Alert" email and supporting documents prior to the meeting. Seeing that I figured that there would be overwhelming opposition to the mine project, and there certainly was. Near the end of Maine Audubon's document, "Why the Katahdin region is no place for a mine," they state that "we don't oppose mining in general." I trust that that is a true statement from the organization, but I suspect that most folks who spoke in opposition to the project would never support a mine anywhere by any company. To some extent that is understandable since historically the mining industry has had a poor record when it comes to environmental responsibility. That is why I am glad that Maine has strict mining regulations, thanks in part to concerned organizations like Maine Audubon.

Clearly, companies that mine the metals that we all use in our daily lives need to try to make a profit so that they can continue doing what they do. It is up to state and federal regulators to

pass regulations and monitor projects to make sure that companies follow them. I wonder if the hard-core anti-mining folks will acknowledge that if mining will never be acceptable in a place where there are strict regulations, then it will necessarily take place in locations where there are few if any environmental regulations. I did notice that there certainly was quite a bit of metal parked in the lot behind the Cross Center on the night of the hearing.

In their "Action Alert" Maine Audubon states: "This is the WRONG mine in the WRONG place by the WRONG company.

**WRONG Mine:** On the contrary, I think that the project could be a very good mine for Maine. There are still years of environmental baseline, engineering, and resource development work ahead just to determine if the project can be economically viable. The deposit is a small, steeply dipping deposit of very high-grade zinc sulfide mineralization with lesser amounts of copper, lead, and silver. The mine would be an underground mine with a very small amount of surface disturbance that could be readily reclaimed upon completion. The high grade of the deposit may allow the ore to be shipped directly to a mill in Canada with no need for any significant processing on the mine site. Also, the waste rock produced during mining will be backfilled into the completed mine workings as mining progresses.

**WRONG Place:** Mineral deposits occur where they occur as a result of complex, natural geologic processes. The exploration efforts that took place in northern and western Maine between the 1960s and 1990s were specifically targeting base metal massive sulfide deposits because those are the types of deposits that are known to occur in the kinds of geologic environments present there. No one would want to have a mine near any densely populated areas, so exploration efforts were concentrated in more remote woodland areas of the state. Many of the corporate woodland owners at the time were amenable to signing exploration leases on their properties in hopes of securing future mine production royalties. However, despite an intensive effort by several exploration groups for nearly four decades, only four or five deposits were discovered that could even come close to being economically viable, the Pickett Mountain deposit being one of them. These are all beautiful, special places, but remember, they are privately owned working commercial woodlands. They go through periods of intense disturbance followed by years of recovery when nature takes over again.

**WRONG Company:** Much has been made of the fact that Wolfden is a very small company with no experience in operating a mine. That should not be a major concern for the project at this stage as Wolfden is not proposing that they will be the sole operator of the mine if the project goes forward. Wolfden's expertise is in exploration and mineral project development. If the project is allowed to go forward and eventually proves to be economically viable, then an experienced mining company with sufficient financial backing and a proven track record will be brought in to operate the mine.

In conclusion, I urge the commission to approve Wolfden's Pickett Mountain Mine rezoning application so that they may push forward with developing the project to a point where they can submit a mining permit application to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. I do not believe that approving the rezoning application would be abdicating your responsibility as was suggested at the hearing, but would be giving the company the chance to complete their environmental and engineering studies to determine if the project is viable and possibly submit a full mining application.

***NORTHEAST GEOPHYSICAL SERVICES***

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4 Union Street, Suite 3, Bangor, Maine 04401 | [ngsinc@negeophysical.com](mailto:ngsinc@negeophysical.com) Phone 207-942-2700

October 30, 2023

Dear Land Use Planning Commission Commissioners,

I am writing this letter in support of Wolden Resources Corporation request to rezone their property located in T6R6, Penobscot County. My understanding is that their property needs to be rezoned in order for them to proceed with a mining application for what they call the Pickett Mountain deposit. I am very familiar with this deposit having been on the team that discovered it in 1979 and worked on this project for much of the next decade.

I concur with the Maine Geological Survey who state that, ***“the Pickett Mountain polymetallic deposit stands out as most compatible with the objectives of the Maine Metallic Minerals Mining Act (MMMMMA) which favors small, high-grade deposits that can be mined underground, having less potential environmental impact than large, low-grade, surface mines. Also, one of the commodities in the deposit, zinc, is on the federal list of critical minerals, essential to the economic and national security of the United States.”***

Maine has adopted that Metallic Minerals Mining Act the strictest mining regulations in the U.S. and probably in the world. Rezoning does not guarantee a mining permit; it just allows Wolden to move forward. If the rezoning request is approved Wolden will spend two to three years collecting environmental data prior to submitting their application to the DEP.

Last Monday my business partner and I attended the hearing at the Cross Center in Bangor. I was galvanized to go because we had received a mailing from the Maine Audubon Society that described the project in subjective, apocalyptic terms “dangerous mining proposal” a “bad mining project” and implying that if a mine were there that fish and wildlife would die, forests destroyed, water poisoned, etc. They urged us to come to a pre hearing anti-mining rally and then testify against the rezoning request at the hearing. They also stated. “We’re happy to help you prepare your in-person testimony”. Apparently many took them up on their offer.

None who spoke in opposition acknowledged the fact that they would not be there were it not for the metal that we get from mining Perhaps they do not realize this or simply choose to ignore this “inconvenient truth”. Which is everything we have: food, clothing, shelter, communication, transportation, is made of metal or at the very least produced by equipment made of metal. Everything. Basically all that they were saying is, “We don’t want a mine in Maine – Not in my backyard”.

In their letter Audubon admits that mining is necessary and that they don't oppose mining in general. However they oppose the Pickett Mountain location because it lies in the water shed of the Penobscot River. The truth of the matter is that every square inch of Maine exists in the watershed of some river - the Penobscot, Kennebec, Allagash, St. Croix, etc. I have no doubt that they would object to development of a mineral deposit no matter where it was located in Maine.

Fact check

I am especially disappointed with the Penobscot Nation who have come out strongly opposing the rezoning request claiming that it threatens land that is sacred to them. A few years ago they were actively exploring on their own land for metal deposits exactly like the deposit found in T6R6. Theresa Secord, an exploration geologist from the Penobscot tribe, led this exploration effort. I worked with Theresa when she was president of the Maine Mineral Resources Association which was an organization that was formed to promote mineral resource development in the State. Theresa worked hard to develop workable mining regulations in the State. Unfortunately the Penobscot Nation was unable to find a viable mineral deposit. If they had been successful I'm sure they would a different attitude about mining.

I am old enough to remember when raw sewage was dumped into the Penobscot by the towns, mills and factories along its shores. That is not done today. The same is true for mining. It is just fear mongering to say that mining will undoubtedly destroy the environment.

When I graduated from the University of Maine in 1977 my first well-paying job was as an exploration geologist in northern Maine. I was part of the team that discovered the mineral deposit in T6R6. The exploration company I worked for spent about a million dollars a year in Maine on land leases, vehicles, lodging, services, wages and so forth. My job enabled me to buy a home and start a family here in Maine. The same was true of my co-workers, all from Maine also. I know that the same opportunity could exist for the young people in northern Maine today if Wolfden is allowed to move forward.

Sincerely,



Rudy Rawcliffe, CG  
NGS, Inc.  
4 Union Street  
Bangor, Maine

Dear Maine LUPC Commissioners,

I am in support of the re-zoning application by Wolfden. This will allow the company to proceed to the next step in the essential technical studies to determine if the proposed Pickett Mountain development is even feasible under Maine's strict mining regulations.

As background, I am a professional geoscientist currently employed as Chief Geologist at IAMGOLD Corporation, a mid-tier gold mining company with operations in Canada and West Africa. I have over 40 years of experience exploring for mineral deposits in New Brunswick (within the same geological belts that extend into Maine), in parts of the USA, across Canada, in Europe, in Central and South America, and in Asia. In fact, I own property in Oak Bay, New Brunswick, just across the border from Calais, and my father lives in Saint Andrews, NB, so I am familiar with the general terrain in which the proposed mine would be situated.

I had the opportunity to watch most of the technical sessions and public comment sessions at the Wolfden Resources public hearings two weeks ago. Many of the arguments against Wolfden during these hearings were what I see as, at minimum, "putting the cart well before the horse", with a hearty assortment mud-slinging and fear-mongering thrown in for good measure. Assuming that a mine will 100% for certain destroy the environment, at this stage of the project, is incredibly short sighted. Numerous environmental and engineering feasibility studies must come first.

The "Catch 22", as the Commission Chair cited, is that a company would not, should not, and could not raise the capital to do these costly advanced studies without a legal avenue to eventually be able to apply for a mining permit, which starts with having the land rezoned. Although obviously passionate people, I believe the intervenors (opponents) on this subject are somewhat misguided with their approach to try and devalue and discredit Wolfden for following the legally mandated and ethical progression of project development.

Furthermore, as a geologist and geochemist I found the technical sessions on ARD and other geochemical considerations particularly interesting, but was somewhat dismayed by the opponents repeated focus on this, despite Wolfden having already presented the preliminary studies and basic science (i.e. no oxygen = no ARD) on why this would not be an issue during operations or following mine closure. It was particularly exasperating to hear the opponent's experts repeatedly use the word "likely" or "probably" with respect to ARD without any modern relevant facts to back that opinion up, and totally disregard the basic science that Wolfden had already presented.

These are really just attempts at fear-mongering, and in fact they used some examples that were very disingenuous in my opinion. One example that stuck in my head being the Buckhorn Mine where the graph they presented showed increasing arsenic concentrations leaching from cemented backfill as "alarming", while in reality those arsenic values are relatively miniscule (0.005 to 0.015 ppm), and in fact equivalent to the recorded concentrations of arsenic in New



Brunswick domestic well waters, for example. In New Brunswick that is controlled by the geology of the rocks, not industrial contamination.

Also being a sport fisherman myself, I certainly agree that protection of lakes and rivers is critical, especially to the First Nations that may rely on them as a traditional food source. Although I have not seen the very preliminary baseline water quality data that Wolfden has collected, I note in the soil geochemistry maps on Wolfden's website there are two trends of elevated zinc, lead, and copper entering Pickett Mountain Pond and its inlet stream. This is a naturally existing contamination that does not seem to have affected the fish population, although it will take additional study to determine if it is still active or occurred in the geologic past. If still actively occurring, it could actually be remediated during the mine operations.

As an example of the mud-slinging component, during the Bangor public comment session one of the opponents suggested that at one of Mr. Little's prior mining endeavors, Orezone, located in West Africa, the project supported or utilized child labor. I believe this to be at best an attempt to discredit Wolfden, and encourage the commissioners to review the level of commitment and dedication that the modern mining industry today has to globally recognized environmental, social and governance practices. In this case, I think the opponent was confusing local "artisanal" mining (which often have women and children working in them) with modern mechanized mining, either mistakenly or maliciously, but their comments are patently untrue, and I sincerely hope the Commission discounts them. In fact modern mining greatly improves the lives of the local population in West Africa by providing good paying jobs, generational skill transfer, assistance in community development (e.g. water wells, solar power systems, schools, and medical clinics), and other various investments back into the local communities.

So, in conclusion, should not Mainers have the same opportunity to have good paying local jobs, rather than watching their communities "wither on the vine" as all the younger folk leave for jobs in the big cities? Furthermore, not approving this rezoning is stating that Maine is not open for responsible mining; if not this small, high-grade deposit, then what is an acceptable mining project within Maine's borders?

Thank you for your time, attention, and service.



Matthew Rees, M.Sc., P.Ge.  
Toronto, Ontario

*Disclaimer: This letter was prepared by the author in his personal capacity. The views and opinions expressed in this letter are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of any entities he represents, including IAMGOLD Corporation.*

Carr, Tim

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**From:** ryan@ryanswell.ca  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 2, 2023 9:20 PM  
**To:** LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning  
**Subject:** Ron Little, vote of confidence

**EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

To Tim Carr and whom it may concern

My name is Ryan Hreljac, since my childhood back in 1998 I have been an advocate and funder for clean water issue projects all around the world for those who need it most. I've worked as a volunteer and professionally with the Ryan's Well Foundation doing work in 17 countries around the world and providing 1.4 million people with access to clean water. One of the areas we've had the privilege to having done work in for over a decade was Burkina Faso where we had the honor to partner with Ron Little and Orezone.

I first met Ron Little and the Orezone team when I was just entering high school over 15 years ago, they had heard about my efforts to do water work on the radio, and they were interested in doing something more to give back through their professional work. Mining companies in general weren't positively regarded as having positive corporate responsibility where they operated, and Ron and his team wanted to change that image. They wanted to utilize mining equipment and local connections to do more than mining. They wanted to give back, improve the quality of life for people in Burkina while running a successful mining operation. We were able to partner with Orezone for close to a decade and without them we couldn't have done anything close to the work we were able to do in Burkina. This work included at least 45 water wells, sanitation projects and educational training in the villages and schools. As a company they cared about the communities and worked in and sought to add local economic value to the local communities through professional employment and reaching out to do water work in areas they worked in as well as doing a majority of work completely outside the zone of where they operated. Ron was so dedicated to the good work being done that even after he left Orezone as an executive he still helped share local connections to help us facilitate additional water projects in Burkina Faso for years afterward.

I've been lucky to get know Ron over the years and I can't think of anyone in mining that is more committed to corporate responsibility and giving back to the areas they do work than Ron. I've appreciated him as a mentor and friend, and I think anyone working with him professionally or having him operate in their community would be fortunate.

Regards

[Ryan Hreljac](#)

Founder & Executive Director

**Ryan's Well Foundation**

(613) 258-6832

Parish Building 40 Campus Dr. Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0

PO Box 1120

[www.ryanswell.ca](http://www.ryanswell.ca) e: [ryan@ryanswell.ca](mailto:ryan@ryanswell.ca)

# SUPPORT PATTEN

RECEIVED  
OCT 10 2023  
LUPC - AUGUSTA

June 25, 2023

Maine Land Use Regulation Commission  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022  
Submitted by email to: [WolfdenRezoningLUPC@Maine.Gov](mailto:WolfdenRezoningLUPC@Maine.Gov)

RE: Wolfden Mount Chase LLC  
Petition for Rezoning  
T6 R6  
Application No. ZP 779A

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am in favor of Wolfden's proposed zone change and development of its project in Township 6 Range 6 WELS, Aroostook County, Maine.

I am a resident of northern Maine and can see first hand the lack of economic opportunity in the Patten Sherman area.

We all have to work for a living and need more opportunities to do so.

I have every confidence in DEP to decide whether Wolfden meets the statutory criteria for the permit necessary for its project but we will never get to that point without a zone change.

Very truly yours,



Shaylee Anderson  
PO Box 23  
Patten ME 04765

# SUPPORT MT CHASE

June 29, 2023

Maine Land Use Regulation Commission  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022  
Submitted by email to: [WolfdenRezoningLUPC@Maine.Gov](mailto:WolfdenRezoningLUPC@Maine.Gov)

RECEIVED  
OCT 10 2023  
LUPC - AUGUSTA

RE: Wolfden Mount Chase LLC  
Petition for Rezoning  
T6 R6  
Application No. ZP 779A

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am in favor of Wolfden's proposed zone change and development of its project in Township 6 Range 6 WELS, Aroostook County, Maine.

I am a resident of northern Maine and can see first hand the lack of economic opportunity in the Patten Sherman area.

We all have to work for a living and need more opportunities to do so.

I have every confidence in DEP to decide whether Wolfden meets the statutory criteria for the permit necessary for its project but we will never get to that point without a zone change.

Very truly yours,

*Jeremiah Drew* Jeremiah Drew  
1271 Shin Pond Road  
Mt Chase, Me 04765

# SUPPORT PATTEN

RECEIVED  
OCT 10 2023  
LUPC - AUGUSTA

June , 2023

Maine Land Use Regulation Commission  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022  
Submitted by email to: [WolfdenRezoningLUPC@Maine.Gov](mailto:WolfdenRezoningLUPC@Maine.Gov)

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Very truly yours,

 TRAVIS LIBBY  
47 PLEASANT ST  
PATTEN, ME. 04765

# SUPPORT MT CHASE

June , 2023

Maine Land Use Regulation Commission  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022  
Submitted by email to: [WolfdenRezoningLUPC@Maine.Gov](mailto:WolfdenRezoningLUPC@Maine.Gov)

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OCT 10 2023  
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Ladies and Gentlemen:

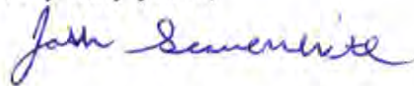
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Very truly yours,



JOSH Slawonwhite MT Chase Maine

# SUPPORT PATTEN

June , 2023

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22 State House Station  
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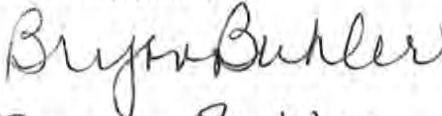
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Very truly yours,

  
Bryan Buhler  
46 Gardner St  
Patten ME 04765

# SUPPORT PATTEN

June 25, 2023

Maine Land Use Regulation Commission  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022  
Submitted by email to: [WolfdenRezoningLUPC@Maine.Gov](mailto:WolfdenRezoningLUPC@Maine.Gov)

RECEIVED  
OCT 10 2023  
LUPC - AUGUSTA

RE: Wolfden Mount Chase LLC  
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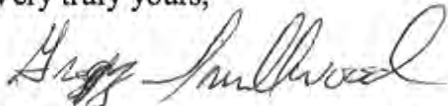
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Very truly yours,

  
Gregg Smallwood  
35 Katahdin St  
Patten ME 04765



# SUPPORT MT CHASE

RECEIVED  
OCT 10 2023  
LUPC - AUGUSTA

June , 2023

Maine Land Use Regulation Commission  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022

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Very truly yours,



Carroll H. Bates

MT Chase

# SUPPORT MT CHASE

June 22, 2023

Maine Land Use Regulation Commission  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022  
Submitted by email to: [WolfdenRezoningLUPC@Maine.Gov](mailto:WolfdenRezoningLUPC@Maine.Gov)

RECEIVED  
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LUPC - AUGUSTA

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Very truly yours,



Tristan Clippinger  
551 Shin Pond Rd  
Mt Chase Me 04765

# SUPPORT PATTEN

June 22, 2023

Maine Land Use Regulation Commission  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022  
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Very truly yours,

Riley Thurston  
551 Skin Pond RD  
Patten, ME 04765



# SUPPORT PATTEN

June 25 2023

Maine Land Use Regulation Commission  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022  
Submitted by email to: [WolfdenRezoningLUPC@Maine.Gov](mailto:WolfdenRezoningLUPC@Maine.Gov)

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LUPC - AUGUSTA

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Very truly yours,

Paula Smallwood  
Paula Smallwood  
35 Kataldin St.  
Patten, Me 04765

# SUPPORT PATTEN

RECEIVED

OCT 12 2023

LUPC - AUGUSTA

June , 2023

Maine Land Use Regulation Commission

22 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333-0022

Submitted by email to: [WolfdenRezoningLUPC@Maine.Gov](mailto:WolfdenRezoningLUPC@Maine.Gov)

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Very truly yours,

Ronald D. Campbell II

Ronald D. Campbell II

Patten, ME 04765

# SUPPORT PATTEN

RECEIVED

OCT 12 2023

LUPC - AUGUSTA

June , 2023

Maine Land Use Regulation Commission  
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Very truly yours,  
*on*  
*Fred Brownlee*  
*Fred Brownlee*  
*105 Main Street*  
*Patten 04765*

# SUPPORT ISLAND FALLS

RECEIVED

OCT 12 2023

LUPC - AUGUSTA

June , 2023

Maine Land Use Regulation Commission  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022  
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Very truly yours,

Sam Vetter 

363 Island Falls Rd Sherman, me 04776

# SUPPORT

RECEIVED  
OCT 12 2023  
LUPC - AUGUSTA

June , 2023

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22 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022  
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Very truly yours,

Travis Browne  
Travis Browne 642 Skin Pond Rd



# SUPPORT PATTEN

RECEIVED

OCT 12 2023

LUPC - AUGUSTA

June<sup>27</sup>, 2023

Maine Land Use Regulation Commission  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022  
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Very truly yours,

Alma C. Hill  
Alma C. Hill  
PO Box 314  
Patten, ME  
04765

# SUPPORT PATTEN

RECEIVED  
OCT 12 2023  
LUPC - AUGUSTA

June , 2023

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22 State House Station  
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Very truly yours,

*Dennis Brockett*  
*Patten Me. 04765*  
*248 Barkequill*

# SUPPORT T5 R7

RECEIVED  
OCT 12 2023  
LUPC - AUGUSTA

June , 2023

Maine Land Use Regulation Commission  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022  
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Very truly yours,



JOHN HUNTER

T-5 R-7

# SUPPORT PATTEN

RECEIVED  
OCT 12 2023  
LUPC - AUGUSTA

June , 2023

Maine Land Use Regulation Commission  
22 State House Station  
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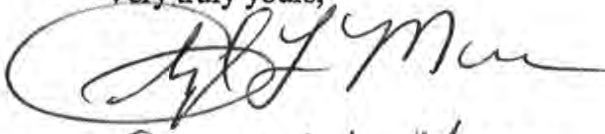
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Very truly yours,

  
Cheryl L. Morse  
Patten

# SUPPORT STACYVILLE

RECEIVED  
OCT 12 2023  
LUPC - AUGUSTA

June , 2023

Maine Land Use Regulation Commission  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022  
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Very truly yours, *Ronald Splan* *Ronald Splan*

*16 Rolling Meadows Rd  
Stacyville, ME 04777*

# SUPPORT PATTEN

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OCT 12 2023  
LUPC - AUGUSTA

June , 2023

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22 State House Station  
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Very truly yours,

*Casey Savage 6-26-23*

~~336~~ 338 South Patten Rd. Patten, ME  
04765

SUPPORT  
PATTEN

RECEIVED  
OCT 13 2023  
LUPC - AUGUSTA

June , 2023

Maine Land Use Regulation Commission  
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Very truly yours,



Matthew Maddox  
77 winding hill rd  
Crystal me 04747  
Po Box 325  
Patten me 04765

# SUPPORT PATTEN

RECEIVED

OCT 13 2023

LUPC - AUGUSTA

June , 2023

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22 State House Station  
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Very truly yours,



Steven Anderson

6- Main Street.  
Patten Maine.



# SUPPORT PATTEN

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OCT 13 2023  
LUPC - AUGUSTA

June , 2023

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Very truly yours,

*John Roy*  
John Roy PATTEN ME

# SUPPORT PATTEN

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Very truly yours,

 Keith R Lane

P.O. Box 217

Patten, Me 04765

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LUPC - AUGUSTA

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Very truly yours,

  
Sennah Lane  
P.O. box 486  
Patten ME  
04765

# SUPPORT PATTEN

RECEIVED  
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Very truly yours, *Frank Dickinson*  
*Frank Dickinson*  
*Patten Me*

SUPPORT

RECEIVED  
OCT 13 2023  
LUPC - AUGUSTA

June , 2023

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Very truly yours,



Kevin L Grant

STACCEL BILE me

SUPPORT  
PATTEN

RECEIVED  
OCT 13 2023  
LUPC - AUGUSTA

June , 2023

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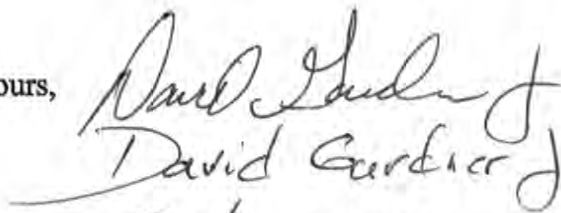
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I have every confidence in DEP to decide whether Wolfden meets the statutory criteria for the permit necessary for its project but we will never get to that point without a zone change.

Very truly yours,

  
David Gardner  
Patten, ME

# SUPPORT PATTEN

RECEIVED  
OCT 13 2023  
LUPC - AUGUSTA

June , 2023

Maine Land Use Regulation Commission  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022  
Submitted by email to: [WolfdenRezoningLUPC@Maine.Gov](mailto:WolfdenRezoningLUPC@Maine.Gov)

RE: Wolfden Mount Chase LLC  
Petition for Rezoning  
T6 R6  
Application No. ZP 779A

Ladies and Gentlemen:


I am in favor of Wolfden's proposed zone change and development of its project in Township 6 Range 6 WELS, Aroostook County, Maine.

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Very truly yours,

 Jody Gardner  
Patten Me 04965

# SUPPORT PATTEN

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Ladies and Gentlemen:

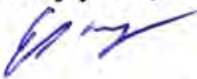
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Very truly yours,

  
Cole M Lane  
P.O. Box 486  
Patten ME 04765



# SUPPORT SHERMAN

OCT 13 2023  
LUPC - AUGUSTA

June , 2023

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Very truly yours,



Raymond B Landrus

P. O. Box 61

Sherman ME

04776

# SUPPORT NEW LIMERICK

RECEIVED  
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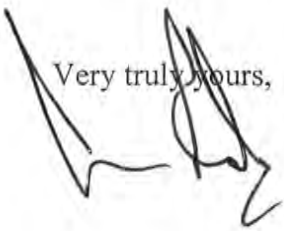
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Very truly yours,



Aaron Penabaz  
11 Country Club Drive East  
New Limerick, ME 04761

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Very truly yours,

*Shamie S. Kelly*  
*223 Island Falls Rd*  
*Sherman, ME 04776*

# SUPPORT

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Very truly yours,

*Evan Hall* Evan Hall 1750 LUDLOW RD

# SUPPORT MT CHASE

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Very truly yours,

  
Jon Ellis mt Chase

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Very truly yours,

*Duane Nickerson* 1383 county road  
*Duane Nickerson* New Limerick

# SUPPORT OAKFIELD

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June , 2023

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Very truly yours,

*Peter Dickinson*

*Peter Dickinson*

*180 mission st oakfield me 04763*

# SUPPORT OAKFIELD

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Very truly yours, 

*Peter E Callison Jr.* Peter E Callison Jr  
201 Thompson Settlement R.D.  
Oakfield ME 04763



# SUPPORT PATTEN

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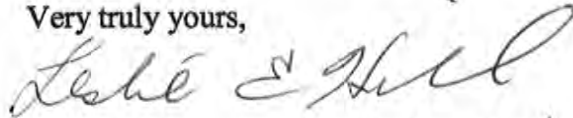
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Very truly yours,

  
Leslie E. Hill  
P.O. Box 314  
PATTEN, ME. 04765

# SUPPORT PATTEN

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Very truly yours,

*Marie Chase*

*Marie Chase - Patten*

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Very truly yours,

*Wally McGary* WALLY MCGARY

PO Box 241 Oakfield

# SUPPORT NEW LIMERICK

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Very truly yours,

*Scott Wolcott*  
*Scott Wolcott*  
NewLimerick ME. 04761

# SUPPORT HODGDON

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OCT 17 2023  
LUPC - AUGUSTA

June , 2023

Maine Land Use Regulation Commission  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022  
Submitted by email to: [WolfdenRezoningLUPC@Maine.Gov](mailto:WolfdenRezoningLUPC@Maine.Gov)

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Very truly yours,

*Braden Downs*

Braden Downs

91 B North Townline RD  
Hodgdon ME

**Carr, Tim**

---

**From:** denise harlow <dharlow240@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 9:43 PM  
**To:** LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning  
**Subject:** Rebuttal comments

**EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

I am Denise Harlow from Oquossoc. During the 128th legislature I was a representative from Portland and on the Environment and Natural Resource Committee. The ENR Committee wrote the language for the Maine Metallic Minerals Mining bill that was passed into law. In the submitted comments, there have been several references to the statement by the Maine Geological Survey that “the Pickett Mountain polymetallic deposit stands out as most compatible with the objectives of the Maine Metallic Minerals Mining Act (MMMMMA) which favors small, high-grade deposits...” In part that is correct. However, that is not a complete assessment of the proposed mine’s compatibility. It ignores, and perhaps misleads, on other but significant objectives that formed a basis for the Act.

In developing this bill, the ENR Committee spent many long days in research, discussion, and consideration of testimony. Importantly, compelling testimony was offered by the mining interests that greatly influenced the actions and intent of the Committee. The Committee also agreed with such testimony, and intended that all plans must:

- (1) be detailed, thorough and exact;
- (2) provide transparency for the public in all aspects of mining operations, including intensive monitoring for contamination;
- (3) not allow discernible hazards to the environment, its wildlife, water, and vitally, the public’s health.

After reviewing this application, it is not compatible with this legislative intent. Furthermore, Wolfden’s application appears to be incomplete, contradictory, and confusing. This application should be rejected.

Thank you for your consideration.

Denise Harlow

## Comments in Rebuttal

The Doe Run mining/smelting complex in Missouri was noted to “have similar mineralogy to this deposit [Pickett Mountain] containing primarily **lead** [emphasis added] but with zinc and copper” (Comments, Wilcox, 10/27/23). This was appropriately brought up as a possible example for mine water treatment that might be used in the similar circumstances at Pickett Mountain. However, no further relevant details were provided. In rebuttal, they should be provided.

The Doe Run complex is an active superfund site. Due to extensive and pervasive environmental pollution, a consent decree with the EPA was filed in 2010 ( [www.epa.gov/enforcement/doe-run-resources-corporation-settlement#overview](http://www.epa.gov/enforcement/doe-run-resources-corporation-settlement#overview) ). It was agreed to spend \$65 million to clean up the air, water, and soil. Not only elevated levels of toxic lead but also arsenic and cadmium were found. Specifically included in the settlement was improved inspection of trucks hauling hazardous materials, sampling materials along truck routes, and an assessment to implement improvements to transportation and handling operations.

In 2018 there was a further settlement for \$80 million to clean up about 4100 residential properties contaminated by lead. **In the three most affected zip codes, 9.3% to 16.7% of children had elevated blood lead levels** (greater than 5 mg/dl). ([www.epa.gov/enforcement/case-summary-big-river-superfund-site-80-million-settlement-lead-contamination-cleanup](http://www.epa.gov/enforcement/case-summary-big-river-superfund-site-80-million-settlement-lead-contamination-cleanup)). According to the US Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the American Academy of pediatrics, there is **NO** safe level of lead.

Despite these efforts as of 2020 there was still contaminated sediment in the nearby Big River.

The potential of such similar events occurring at Pickett Mountain as those at Doe Run is very concerning. I feel that the application fails to demonstrate that similar environmental and health disasters would not have a significant probability of occurring in your jurisdiction.

Please reject this application.

Thank you.

Bruce Taylor, MD, FAAP  
Sweden, Maine

**Carr, Tim**

---

**From:** Peggy Jerome Stuart <pjstuartus@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 11:39 PM  
**To:** LUPC, Wolfden Rezoning  
**Subject:** public comment response

**EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Commissioners of the Land Use Planning Commission:

Thank you for serving the people of Maine. Your work on this project has introduced many of us to the LUPC's important work.

I wish to respond to the written comment of Frederick Beck, a geologist from consulting firm Maine Environmental Laboratory, LLC. Mr. Beck wrote in support of Wolfden's application.

Mr. Beck writes about how Maine should "take responsibility for contributing to the 'Green Revolution'" by encouraging metal mining. I see nothing "green" in metal mining. Love him or hate him, Elon Musk agrees. He and other "green revolution" entrepreneurs are actively seeking alternatives to metals. If we really want to be green, we will safeguard our water, protect our land, and invest in industries that are non-extractive. If we want to be responsible, we will safeguard our environment for future generations and encourage sustainable industries that provide work for our grandchildren. But Mr. Beck sees great advantage to encouraging metal mining in Maine. Mr. Beck is the local consulting geologist hired by Exiro Minerals, a Canadian junior mining company seeking to explore in Warren, Union, and Hope (<https://exirowintergreen.com/whowearc/>).

Margaret F. Jerome Stuart (Warren)

"Firms are exploring sodium batteries as an alternative to lithium." The Economist, October 25, 2023. Article available without subscription from <https://www.aol.com/finance/firms-exploring-sodium-batteries-alternative-191939628.html>

"Tesla's Magnet Mystery Shows Elon Musk Is Willing to Compromise." Wired, May 1, 2023. <https://www.wired.com/story/tesla-elon-musk-magnet-mystery/>