

**From:** [Richard Fochtman](#)  
**To:** [DEP, MiningComments2016](#)  
**Subject:** Maine Needs Strong Environmental Laws  
**Date:** Saturday, September 10, 2016 8:45:30 AM

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Members of the Board of Environmental Protection,

The Governor once again is trying to undermine our environment, our clean water, and the voice of the citizens of Maine. No doubt he wants to keep lining his own pockets with "donations" from the mining industry. We the People have spoken up twice already, and he ignores us.

We depend on tourism, and the environmentally clean outdoor activities that tourists come here for. Extracting industries are notorious for shitting in their own back yards. Polluting our water and land by one extracting industry is a direct assault on the many forms of recreational industries that so many of us depend on for our livelihoods, and the state depends on for the tax dollars we produce.

Money that we earn from tourists stays in Maine. Money from mining goes out of state to corporations and people from away. And history shows that we, the taxpayers, are always left with toxic waste and the clean-up bill. This is a lose-lose situation for Mainers. The only people who win are the mine owners and whatever they slip the governor.

We need STRONG laws that protect the environment and the future jobs of our children. We also need laws that protect all of Maine taxpayers from the millions of dollars in taxes that we would have to pay to clean up the mess after the mining companies have left and conveniently "gone bankrupt".

I am not against mining, but I am in favor of laws that require a corporation to leave the environment equal to or better than they found it when they started. The paper companies use clean water in their processes and we have laws that insist that they return CLEAN water to the environment when they are done with it. If we can insist that paper companies play by these rules then we can expect that other industries are treated equally by strong laws in place BEFORE they start to work. We all remember what the unsafe-for-swimming rivers smelled like before there were strong laws to keep them clean.

You at the Board, all live in Maine for a reason. Being on this particular board shows some affinity with the environment. It is your backyard too. Please do the right thing to keep Maine as pristine as possible with strong laws.

Thank you,

Richard Fochtman  
Leeds, Maine