

From: Kilgarvan@pwless.net
To: [DEP, MiningComments2016](#)
Subject: Newest proposed Mining rules
Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 10:10:34 AM

September 21, 2016
Cynthia Bertocci

Dear Cynthia Bertocci,

Please deliver these comments to the BEP.

Dear Chairman Parker and members of the Board of Environmental Protection:

I write you as a 40 year resident here in Aroostook County who cares deeply about our quality of life here. Also as one who has toured the site specifically around Bald Mountain which was the original driving motive to loosen our regulations on metal mining.

- 1) I know from my years paddling water near the base of that mountain this cannot be done safely due to the highly toxic nature of the ore as stated by geologists. Add to that the much heavier rains we are experiencing now likely due to climate change.
- 2) This is NOT an issues of adding jobs to our economy, but one of actually harming existing or potential jobs and businesses in our area that depend on clean water and image of a clean region. Property owners with camps would suffer value loss, any recreation such as our fishing derbies or guiding would be hurt, and our agriculture especially would be hurt. The Maine potato, which already struggles to be recognized as a wholesome food in schools for example (Sen collins had to fight for that) would suffer irreparable harm to its brand as a clean safe food. Consider this # alittlearsenicwiththosefries, sir? One mean Twitter post could set us back by millions of business dollars.
- 3) Much is made about `folks from away` Often meaning Portland, trying to keep jobs out of Aroostook. this a farce. We have a billionaire from another country, Mr. Irving, spending lobby money to influence you legislators to put the locals here at risk of having our two major river systems become his private sewer. THAT is influence `from away`, people here are just sometimes afraid to say it because he already has become the big gorilla in our yard. You can't convince us if there was a spill or leak you would not lower classification to Fish or Aroostook River just as you once did to Prestile Stream for another businessman, Fred Valhsing. Why? Because of the pressure to keep whatever jobs were by then started. It is a slippery slope!
- 4) you are presenting an impossible task to your own DEP and then blaming them when they can't mesh with the original mining bill that never should have been passed, and only passed thanks to the money influence of the Irving company. If you ever start a mine here the public resistance and backlash you will face in every news feed from here will hurt Maine`s businesses for decades. We will not roll over and watch our waters poisoned quietly. We know this mine will fail to live up to its safety promises because they all have elsewhere, in climates much dried than our own, and they always started off with the same lies.

Please follow the lead of both the 126th and 127th Legislatures, and reject these rules.better yet, revisit the original bill that set this in motion and reject it. Take DEP off the hook.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah Leary
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