

From: [Richard Merrill](#)
To: [DEP, MiningComments2016](#)
Subject: Say NO to Weak Mining Rules!
Date: Friday, September 09, 2016 10:16:39 PM

For the third year in a row, the LePage Administration is pushing weak mining rules that attack on our clean water and land. The past two years, thousands of citizens and many local organizations said “NO” to these rules and the Maine Legislature heard our collective voice and defeated these irresponsible mining rules.

These past attacks threatened some of Maine’s most iconic places, like Moosehead Lake and the Down East coast, and this time is no different. As Mainers, we depend on clean water to support our tourism, fishing, hunting, and recreation industries. Not only does our clean water directly and indirectly support thousands of jobs across the state, it is a part of our way of life.

The proposed rules are a threat to our environment because they would allow mining on and under our incredible Public Reserved Lands, they would allow dangerous disposal facilities that contain toxic mine waste and processing chemicals, and they would allow all of this to take place in floodplains and flood hazard areas. And – with so much at risk – they would leave Maine taxpayers stuck with the clean up bill if something goes wrong.

I urge you to do what is best for our state and our people, by saying “NO” to these weak mining rules once again and putting an end to these attacks on Maine’s clean water, and the industries it supports.

Maine deserves strong laws that protect our water, wildlife, natural resources, and people.

Thank you,