

From: [Pokras, Mark](#)
To: [DEP, MiningComments2016](#)
Subject: comments on proposed mining rules
Date: Sunday, September 18, 2016 9:06:26 AM

Dear Committee Members:

As a health professional who has worked on environmental toxics issues for much of the last 30 years, I am writing to strongly oppose the mining rules that are currently being proposed.

These rules are still not strong enough and, if approved, will significantly put Maine's water and aquatic resources at risk. The jobs and economic benefits that are touted by advocates of mining might look good in the short run. However, these benefits will be far outweighed by the long-term costs to Maine taxpayers and the chronic damage to Maine's natural resources. This has been demonstrated over and over again in communities all over the U.S. (and abroad). Waste rock piles and tailings ponds, especially those placed in floodplains and flood hazard areas, are a particular risk.

Please do not pass the rules as currently proposed.

Thank you for your attention,

Mark Pokras

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