

*Re: Draft Chapter 200: Metallic Mineral Exploration, Advanced  
Exploration and Mining*

*Testimony by Linda Raymond, Council member, Houlton Band of  
Maliseet Indians September 15, 2016*

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Good morning. My name is Linda Raymond. As an elected representative on the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians' Tribal Council and tribal elder, I am also here to testify in opposition to this latest version of mining rules for the state of Maine.

I am deeply disappointed that this latest draft has done nothing to address the concerns we have raised to this Board and to the legislature during attempts to develop new mining rules over the past few years.

We Maliseets traditionally fish, trap, hunt, and gather in and around the land and waters of the Wolastoq or St. John River and have done so for thousands of years. We are working hard to restore and protect our River. Water is sacred to us. Weak mining rules threaten the desecration of our River - all Maine rivers - and the health and welfare of all the creatures that depend on them. They will burden our children, and our children's children, many generations into the future.

I believe we all have the power to prevent this. And that's why I will continue to travel the long miles down here to Augusta, again and again if necessary.

In the words of our relatives the Standing Rock Sioux in North Dakota fighting to protect their River; the Missouri; "water is life."

Woliwon. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.