

**From:** [taproot.two@gmail.com](mailto:taproot.two@gmail.com)  
**To:** [DEP, MiningComments2016](#)  
**Subject:** Please don't weaken Maine's mining rules  
**Date:** Saturday, September 03, 2016 7:26:22 AM

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September 3, 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 urge you to reject the latest version of DEP's weak mining rules. Granting these mining rights gives access to Public Reserve Lands. Access and use of these lands for resource extraction, such as forest products, is managed through well-reasoned and agreed-upon criteria and methods. I am very concerned that these weak rules - which allow the use of the poor method of waste collection through tailing impoundments - would allow mining corporations to pollute our water and harm our woods and wildlife for centuries. These new rules would also not protect taxpayers from having to pay for the cleanup of mining disasters.

As I review the Bureau of Parks and Lands website addressing Public Reserve Lands, I notice it never mentions mining as a possible practice, and there is no listing of any agreed-upon rules for mining. Such rules should be developed and reviewed in public BEFORE mining interests have requested access rights.

I know you understand that Maine's environment and economy are inextricably linked. Maine's rich outdoor heritage and natural scenic beauty are at the heart of our tourism industry, a critical part of our economy. Thousands of Maine people need our state's healthy environment to make their living and provide for their families. Guides, commercial fishermen, and sporting camp owners all depend on Maine's clean water and abundant fish and wildlife. Mining pollution would be a grave threat to these resources.

Please follow the lead of both the 126th and 127th Legislatures, and reject these rules.

Sincerely,

Jamie Riel  
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