

**From:** [Joe Skalecki](#)  
**To:** [DEP, MiningComments2016](#)  
**Subject:** Comments to the Board of Environmental Protection Hearing on Mining Rules  
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I am opposed to the “revised” but still quite weak and dangerous mining laws currently under consideration. In particular I can’t believe we, Maine citizens and taxpayers, would be on the hook for any mining disasters and clean-up after the mine is closed. Who dreamt that one up? The mine operators??

Mine operators must have their own skin in the game regarding full liability and responsibility to pay for accidents, disasters and mine clean up after the mine is no longer workable-then they will be more likely to be as careful as they should and need to be. Mine operators should be required to post a bond and take out liability insurance in an amount responsibly estimated to ensure that Maine taxpayers will not ever have to pay for a bad mine operator actor. If a mine operator cannot handle these financial and operational hurdles then they should not be allowed to mine in Maine-PERIOD! Maine citizens should not be the ones to pay for a clean up or disaster. We have in the past had to do so but we no longer will allow that to happen again! In all, these “revised” mining rules as proposed are still too weak and lax to be put into place and do not best serve the interests of the citizens of Maine.. Thanks for your consideration.

The proposed rules are problematic for me because they would:

- Allow mining on and under Maine’s spectacular Public Reserved Lands.
- Allow tailings impoundments, the most dangerous type of mine waste disposal facility.
- Leave Maine taxpayers on the hook for mining disasters, which happen far too often.
- Allow even the most hazardous parts of mines—such as waste rock piles and tailings ponds—in floodplains and flood hazard areas.

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