September 5, 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 the Board to reject the latest version of the DEP's weak mining rules, which would allow mining corporations to pollute Maine's waters and harm its woods and wildlife potentially for centuries. The rules also would not protect taxpayers from having to pay for the cleanup of mining disasters.

Maine's environment and economy are inextricably linked. The state's rich outdoor heritage and natural scenic beauty are at the heart of its tourism industry that is critical to its economy. Thousands of Maine people need a 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 and livelihoods. Please follow the lead of both the 126th and 127th Legislatures and reject these rules.

I thank you for considering this request, and for your service to the people of Maine.

Sincerely,

Chris Stevenson PO Box 54 Mt. Desert, ME 04660-0054