

From: [Doug Wescott](#)
To: [DEP, MiningComments2016](#)
Subject: Say NO to Weak Mining Rules!
Date: Friday, September 09, 2016 4:54:06 PM

Maine needs jobs, desperately, however not ones that will bite us, or our children, in the butt down the road. That's what will happen if we weaken mining rules and regulations: jobs today, and spills and cleanup down the road, at the cost of millions of public money, and health risks. There are hundreds of stories to attest to this result.

I would much rather pay the higher costs associated with mining companies having to follow more rules at the time of extraction, than years later, after spills, accidents, dirtier air and water threatening health, and costing us for cleanup, long after the company has moved on. It's cheaper that way and prevents health problems.

We have sent men to the moon and back safely; there are 4,000 jet airliners in the air, and thousands of take offs and landings, all done safely. Surely we can develop mining operations that are cost-effective and do away with risk, now and in the future. That's the only way I want to see mines operated, and that goes for any other industries as well. Safe now, pay the extra incremental costs, instead of waiting until after injury, and the costs go up and up and up.

The proposed rules are a threat to our environment because they would allow mining on and under our incredible Public Reserved Lands, they would allow dangerous disposal facilities that contain toxic mine waste and processing chemicals, and they would allow all of this to take place in floodplains and flood hazard areas. And – with so much at risk – they would leave Maine taxpayers stuck with the cleanup bill if something goes wrong.

I urge you to do what is best for the people of Maine by saying “NO” to these weak mining rules once again. Make industry pay the costs up front. This is not only doable, but reasonable.

Sincerely,
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