

**From:** [outwood@roadrunner.com](mailto:outwood@roadrunner.com)  
**To:** [DEP, MiningComments2016](#)  
**Subject:** Please don't weaken Maine's mining rules  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 06, 2016 5:04:01 PM

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September 6, 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. I am very concerned that these weak rules would allow mining corporations to pollute our water and harm our woods and wildlife for centuries. They also would not protect taxpayers from having to pay for the cleanup of mining disasters.

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.

Open-pit mining is the most polluting industrial process in the world. There is worldwide public outcry on open-pit mines with tailings ponds due to the vulnerability of failure and resultant disastrous pollution problems. There is no new proven technology on mining waste treatment today that would guarantee prevention of environmental pollution. There is no financial surety for catastrophic waste pond failures to protect the public from environmental and financial impacts.

Water quality impacts of open-pit mining in Maine would be severe and affect the quality of life in Maine for generations.

Sincerely,

Dave Wood  
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