



Maine Forest Products Council

The voice of Maine's forest economy

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Cross Insurance
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Farm Credit East
Fontaine Inc.
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Huber Resources
INRS
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St. Croix Tissue
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Timber Resource Group
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Testimony in Opposition to LDs 1471, 1508 and LD 1564

“An Act to Amend Provisions of the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act”

“An Act to Ensure a Strategic Approach to Maine’s Energy Transition by Imposing a Moratorium on Lithium Mining”

“An Act to Eliminate Metallic Mineral Mining Activities Without a Permit”

April 13, 2023

Patrick Strauch, Executive Director

Hello Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich and members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. I am Patrick Strauch from Exeter, Maine, and the Executive Director of the Maine Forest Products Council (MFPC). I am submitting testimony today in opposition to the second block of mining bills up for consideration, LDs 1471, 1508 and LD 1564.

The Council opposes LD 1471, “An Act to Amend Provisions of the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act” for one simple reason, we feel that this bill is duplicative of the efforts made by this committee during the passage of the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act. For this reason, we would prefer that the committee use a vehicle from the first block of bills, such as LD 1363, to advance the issue.

The Council opposes LD 1508, “An Act to Ensure a Strategic Approach to Maine’s Energy Transition by Imposing a Moratorium on Lithium Mining.” We oppose this bill because lithium mining does not pose the water quality risks associated with other metallic mining. The extraction process for lithium is more similar to rock quarries that are used throughout Maine, which are regulated differently due to their lower risk factors. These open pit mines should continue to be allowed under the rock quarry laws.

The Council also opposes LD 1564, “An Act to Eliminate Metallic Mining Activities Without a Permit.” We oppose this bill because the current rules differentiate between **exploration** and **advanced exploration** in recognition of the site disturbance created by the various methods. “Exploration” activities have minimal environmental impact, so there is no reason to erect roadblocks for landowners who are looking for more in-depth information about the resources they own on their lands.

Please vote ‘Ought not to pass’ on LDs 1471, 1508 and 1564. Thank you for your consideration.