



## **Sierra Club Maine Stands in Support of Protecting Maine's Natural Resources:**

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### **Maine Water Trust LD 422: An Act to Facilitate the Creation of the Maine Water Trust to Regulate and Protect Maine's Water Supply and to Ensure the Quantity and Quality of Maine's Drinking Water. Sponsor - Representative Michael Sylvester**

**Purpose: To Establish the Maine Water Trust to establish Maine's groundwater supplies as a public trust, to ensure that Maine's citizens have a plentiful and healthy source of water as to the quantity and accessibility of all Maine's groundwater sources:**

- **To determine the level and quantity of drinking water necessary to supply all of Maine's citizens;**
- **to determine the quantity of drinkable water which may be accessed by private entities for commercial use;**
- **to permit and regulate the use of groundwater for commercial purposes and to set any fees over the issuing of said permits;**
- **to inventory water infrastructure including sewers and water pipes used to transfer said water by the 380 water districts of Maine.**

Currently, there is no state body that monitors, regulates, permits or sets limits for the overall portability, quantity, quality or use by commercial entities. Similarly, there is no state body that inventories the pipes and other infrastructure that brings our public municipal water into our homes. We do not the extent to which the "flint-style" lead pipes that are so damaging to Maine children and elders exist in the pipes leading directly into our homes.

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### **Maine Mining Protection Laws LD (TBD): An Act to Protect Maine's Clean Water and Taxpayers from Mining Pollution.** **Sponsor: Senator Everett Brownie Carson**

#### **Purpose:**

- **To ban mining in, on, or under floodplains, public lands, rivers, lakes, & coastal waters,**
- **To place reasonable limits on groundwater pollution by limiting the definition of the term “mining area” and requiring mining companies to limit pollution whenever possible.**
- **Protect Maine tax payers from remediation and environmental cleanup costs by requiring mining companies to pay into a trust.**
- **Require DEP to develop new regulations that encompass the requirements of this bill.**

Mining operations and the subsequent pollution is incredibly dangerous causing serious and lasting damage to Maine's groundwater. Heavy metals from mining operations in groundwater it is nearly impossible to remove, costing taxpayers millions of dollars. In the case of the abandoned and bankrupted Callahan Mining Corporation site in Brooksville taxpayers pay 1.5 million each biennium and the most significant and expensive part of the cleanup has not started. Maine lakes provide \$3 billion in economic revenue annually and support 50,000 jobs. By protecting Maine's water from mining pollution this bill also protects an important industry and provides an economic windfall for Mainer's.