



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

**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.