

# **Fix Maine's Mineral Mining Law**

## **Support the Majority Report on LD 1302**

The Majority Report for LD 1302 fixes problems with last year's mining law by increasing protection for taxpayers and Maine's excellent water quality.

### **The LD 1302 Majority Report:**

#### **Increases Protection for Maine Taxpayers**

- Requires independent third-party verification of closure costs.
- Requires creation of a stand-by trust to receive closure funds, with the State as the beneficiary. This requirement exists for Maine landfills.
- Removes statutory language allowing DEP to approve a broad range of financial assurance instruments that could increase risks to taxpayers.

#### **Increases Protection of Water Quality**

- Requires that mines be designed so that they do not require water treatment for more than 10 years after closure. Maine law currently permits a closed mine to depend on water treatment forever, a dubious prospect for water quality and taxpayers.
- Requires that compliance monitoring wells be placed no further than 100 feet from mining activity areas, unless DEP approves another distance based on scientific analysis. This provision substantially strengthens groundwater protection over last year's law and is based on existing Maine rules for landfills.
- Requires applicants for a mining permit to analyze best practices in model mines in the U.S. and describe how those techniques will be applied here in Maine.
- Prohibits constructing roads with acid-generating waste rock. No such requirement exists in last year's mining law.

#### **Increases Information about Jobs for Maine People**

- Requires a mining applicant to provide detailed information about the number and duration of jobs it will create, and an estimate of how many of these jobs will go to Maine people.

**The Majority Report on LD 1302 provides necessary protections for Maine taxpayers and water quality.**