



3 Wade Street • Augusta, Maine 04330 • (207) 622-3101 • Fax: (207) 622-4343 • www.nrcm.org

Susan Davies

2015 Conservation Leadership Award

For helping protect Maine from mining pollution

Metal mining raises many serious environmental concerns and you don't need to go far to find them. Right in Brooksville, Maine, the former Callahan mine, closed for 40 years, continues to pollute local waters. Maine people have paid nearly \$10 million for cleanup so far, and the biggest part of the cleanup effort has not yet begun. There are countless mining disasters all over the world, yet the LePage Administration and JD Irving have pushed hard to weaken mining rules in Maine. For our members and friends, it has become a familiar story. Three years ago, Canada-based Irving Corporation jumpstarted the process for a 600-acre open-pit mine at Bald Mountain in Aroostook County by introducing an after-deadline bill. The legislation directed the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to come up with new, weak rules for mining in Maine. When DEP brought the expected weak rules to the Legislature, Susan Davies was a key player in helping NRCM defeat them.

This past legislative session, Irving and its allies made another attempt to weaken the rules. Again, we were fortunate to have Susan on our side. Susan worked as a biologist with the Maine DEP for nearly 30 years before leaving after Governor LePage came into office. In her career, she played a major role in the development and implementation of DEP's aquatic life standards, which are an important way to measure whether pollution is having a dangerous impact in rivers and streams. Susan's credibility and expertise convinced key legislators that DEP's rules were too weak and would have harmed Maine's rivers, lakes, streams, and groundwater. Susan provided crucial testimony at hearings and submitted written comments that were frequently cited in the testimony of others. She wrote op-eds and letters to the editor, and shared her knowledge directly with key legislators. It gives NRCM great pleasure to present Susan Davies with a 2015 Conservation Leadership Award.