



STATE OF MAINE
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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

18 April 2014

The 126th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 126th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1851, "An Act To Delay Implementation of the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act and Related Statutory Provisions."

Two years ago, the Legislature passed LD 1853, a law that has become known as the "Maine Mining Act." This law, which created the framework within which metallic mineral mining could be conducted in Maine, required the Executive branch to promulgate rules to carry out this law.

This bill seeks to delay for two more years the implementation of this law. The motive behind the bill is to prevent the approval of the legally and properly developed rules that comply with the Mining Act as enacted two years ago.

For those who oppose mining in Maine, or would have the State implement rules that differ significantly from those brought forth by the Executive branch, the proper legal path provided by the State Constitution is to amend or repeal the Mining Act itself. No legislative committee brought forward a single bill to do so.

Attempting to thwart or delay a duly enacted State law by postponing its implementation to a date four years past its enactment is clearly a violation of the principles expressed in the Constitution that we all took an oath to uphold.

For these reasons, I return LD 1851 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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