



STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage  
GOVERNOR

2 June 2017

The 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the State of Maine  
State House  
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 128<sup>th</sup> 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 820, “An Act to Protect Maine's Clean Water and Taxpayers from Mining Pollution.”

This bill will deter any company from mining in Maine, and it will discourage exploration of our mineral deposits because this bill would make them undevelopable. As a state we should encourage innovation and welcome businesses that will employ our citizens and contribute to our gross domestic product. This bill takes away the opportunity for innovative companies to select safe and cost-effective methods to mine, and it perpetuates the hypocritical, not-in-my-backyard attitude that keeps Maine at a competitive disadvantage.

In a world of rapidly developing technology, people want the latest electronic device—which requires metals mined from somewhere—but they refuse to believe that same level of technological advancement can occur in our manufacturing and resource extraction industries. Establishing clear and reasonable standards for mining could bring mining jobs to Maine. Unnecessary prohibitions based on fear, not science, prevent job creation.

Companies will continue to choose other states to do business until we can offer them a regulatory environment that supports new ideas. I will not support a bill that takes us in the wrong direction.

For this reason, I return LD 820 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage  
Governor



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