

1 STATE OF MAINE  
2 LAND USE PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING  
3

4  
5 In the Matter of  
6 Zoning Petition ZP 779A  
7

8 Wolfden Mt. Chase, LLC  
9 Application for Zone Change, Pickett Mountain Mine  
10

11 October 17, 2023  
12

13 **Night 2 of 3 Public Hearing**  
14

15  
16  
17 BEFORE: Karen A Dube-Harriman, a Notary Public, at  
18 Stearns Junior/Senior High School, 199 State Street,  
19 Millinocket, Maine.  
20

21  
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1           (This hearing was taken before Karen A.  
2 Dube-Harriman, Notary Public, at the Stearns Junior/Senior.  
3 High School, 199 State Street, Millinocket, Maine, on  
4 Tuesday, October 17, 2023, beginning at 6:30 p.m.)

5           MR. WORCESTER: Good evening. I now call to  
6 order this session of the public hearing of the Land  
7 Use Planning Commission on Zoning Petition ZP 779A,  
8 Wolfden Mt. Chase LLC proposed rezoning to allow for  
9 the Pickett Mountain Mine. My name is Everett  
10 Worcester. I represent Piscataquis County on the  
11 Commission. I'm the current Chairman of the  
12 Commission and I'll be the hearing officer tonight.  
13 And, now I'd like to introduce the rest of the  
14 people up here at the table. Betsy?

15           MS. FITZGERALD: Betsy Fitzgerald, Washington  
16 County.

17           MR. ELWELL: Caleb Elwell. I'm an Attorney  
18 General and Counsel for the Commission.

19           MS. BEYER: Stacie Beyer. Executive Director  
20 for the Land Use Planning Commission.

21           MS. HILTON: Gwen Hilton, Somerset County.

22           MR. PRAY: Peter Pray, Penobscot County.

23           MR. TRUDEL: Leo Trudel, Aroostook County.

24           MR. WORCESTER: And, I believe we might have  
25 one or two commissioners absent and they may be

1 listening, but they can't communicate under the  
2 system we're working with tonight.

3 This hearing is being held pursuant to the  
4 provisions of Title 12, Section 684 and Chapter 12  
5 of the Commission's Rules: Mining and Level C  
6 Mineral Exploration Activities. The hearing will be  
7 conducted in accordance with Chapter 5 of the  
8 Commission's Rules for the conduct of public  
9 hearings and the State's Administrative Procedures  
10 Act. The purpose of this session is to receive  
11 public testimony on the proposed rezoning of Pickett  
12 Mountain Mine. This session is being recorded and  
13 live streamed. And, the Applicant is now going to  
14 make a short presentation.

15 MR. OUELLETTE: Good evening Chairman  
16 Worcester, commissioners, members of the public. My  
17 name is Jeremy Ouellette. I'm the Vice President  
18 for Project Development for Wolfden. I'll try to  
19 keep it a little bit shorter tonight, but I want to  
20 introduce the Pickett Project.

21 So, the Pickett Project is a proposed small,  
22 state-of-the-art footprint mining proposal with the  
23 focus on zinc, led, copper, a little bit of silver  
24 and a little bit of gold. The map shown on the  
25 screen here is -- the green box is Wolfden's

1 property boundaries and there's a little outline in  
2 the middle of that green box that represents the  
3 rezoned area. We're about 9 miles north of Patten  
4 along Route 11 and than about 4.4 miles off Route 11  
5 into the woods which is represented by that red line  
6 shown on the screen. Again, the green outline is  
7 Wolfden ownership, around 7100 acres and then  
8 there's a little yellow outline inside the box of  
9 374 acres. So this is a zoomed-in image of the 374  
10 acres. For reference the dark black outline is what  
11 I was trying to point out to you earlier by the  
12 yellow.

13 You'll notice that it's broken down into three  
14 areas, primarily. And, I guess first -- I'm going  
15 to point towards the background image. It's worth  
16 noting that there's currently a forestry managed and  
17 bisected plot of land. The rezone area external  
18 boundary has a 400 foot buffer and inside that 400  
19 foot buffer is where these three proposed phases or  
20 areas will go. There's blue on the right. That is  
21 the area where the majority of the infrastructure  
22 will take place. It's kind of hard to see them, but  
23 in that area there's a mine portal which is the  
24 access to underground which I'll talk about on the  
25 next slide. There are several rocks --

1 MS. BEYER: Could you slow down a little bit,  
2 please.

3 MR. OUELLETTE: Oh, sure. There are several  
4 rock storage pads in that area as well. One for  
5 holding ore material which is the mineralized  
6 material, one for waste rock which is the inert  
7 material that we'll be tunneling through to access  
8 the ore and then a low-grade ore area which is  
9 primarily for blending different grade materials.  
10 There's also a snow storage area. Things like  
11 maintenance garage and warehousing offices, there's  
12 a security location with a gate and then a large  
13 position of that area is the water management area.  
14 The water management area includes a pretreatment  
15 water storage pond that's rated for a 500 year,  
16 24-hour storm event and then water that is collected  
17 would end up going through an ultrafiltration,  
18 reverse osmosis treatment plant where it achieves  
19 the Class A standard that's required by Chapter 200  
20 in this specific area. After it's treated it goes  
21 into a post treatment water storage pond where then  
22 it's tested to ensure that criteria has been met and  
23 then it's discharged. You'll see some hashed areas  
24 in that blue spot as well as well as in the green  
25 and in the orange. Those are water distribution

1 areas and what we're proposing is spray irrigation.  
2 So, we take that water that's been proven clean, we  
3 spray irrigate it, essentially, to mimic natural  
4 precipitation in environments around the site. In  
5 the orange area, that's Phase 2. It's about 3 to 4  
6 years into the operation when that would be  
7 developed. That's for another access to underground  
8 which is a smaller and vertical excavation to the  
9 deeper portions of the mine. In addition to that  
10 there's another secondary area waste rock storage  
11 pad and ore storage pads. All of the storage pads  
12 which are lined and double lined. The green bit to  
13 the top of the page is a proposed solar facility.  
14 All those areas included are 129 acres of the 374  
15 area rezoned area and for scale the solar facility  
16 that's shown on the map represents just under 50  
17 acres. One other thing that I'd like to point out  
18 on this map is that kind of cyan or that brighter  
19 blue spot. We hired a wetland scientist to come in  
20 and delineate all the wetlands and it's worth  
21 pointing out that all of the infrastructure proposed  
22 to the site is at least a 75 foot offset from any  
23 wetland boundary or other water resources.

24 So, this is an image of the mine -- not an  
25 imagine of the mine, but a schematic of how mining

1 would look. Before I get into that on the bottom  
2 left is an image of what I mentioned earlier of a  
3 how mine portal. So, it's about 64 feet wide by 100  
4 feet long and for scale that white vehicle in this  
5 image is about the size of a half ton truck and it's  
6 approaching a tunnel. So, if you look to the right,  
7 that's a schematic of what the deposit in the  
8 tunnels might look like. So, at the top there's  
9 this portal that we just described and then there's  
10 a series of tunnels that are driven at a decline and  
11 helical switchback-type orientation and those are  
12 developed, specifically, in inert rock or,  
13 essentially, aggregate. Once we get to the desired  
14 elevations we drive horizontal drifts or horizontal  
15 tunnels that access the deposit itself and all the  
16 cross sections of those tunnels are roughly 16 feet  
17 by 16 feet. As we develop 2 horizontal tunnels into  
18 the deposit and then drill them we can then drill  
19 from one sublevel to the next and fragment that rock  
20 with explosives and then we use a small underground  
21 front-end loader to pull it out, load it into a  
22 truck and the trucks drives it to surface and puts  
23 it on one of the respective pads. As one of those  
24 excavations is withdrawn from the ore body it's then  
25 backfilled with the aggregate material that we

1 excavated from the tunnel to access this deposit.

2 So, I mentioned earlier the types of metal that  
3 we're after in this mine. So, zinc, lead, copper and  
4 some silver and gold. And, the point of this slide  
5 is that these are all types of minerals that we all  
6 use on a daily basis, especially when we're  
7 transitioning from, you know, reliance on fossil  
8 fuels and moving into renewable resources energy  
9 grid.

10 So, why would the public be interested in a  
11 project like this? So, I guess what we're proposing  
12 is a state-of-the-art project that is protective of  
13 the natural resources, specifically, water resources  
14 around the project site. And, what I feel we bring  
15 to the table is the socioeconomics associated with  
16 the project as well as the driver to that which is  
17 ultimately the employment. We're proposing 270-plus  
18 jobs, 233 of which are based at the mine property  
19 itself that I just pointed out. Very high wages  
20 relative to the, I guess, economic region. And, in  
21 order to fill those roles we're proposing a training  
22 program, a 12-week training program that we have a  
23 bit of time to operate through.

24 In terms of summarizing the socioeconomics in  
25 the economic region there was socioeconomic report

1 done on the project which reported that the -- over  
2 the duration of the project life the total economic  
3 output would be in the ballpark of seven hundred  
4 million dollars.

5 So, in terms of the specifics of the employment  
6 this is just a table -- I know it's hard to see, but  
7 this is a table that summarizes the type of  
8 employment we have at the mining site. And, one  
9 thing I wanted to note is that the type of  
10 employment that will be working here are skill sets  
11 that exist in the state already in terms of  
12 construction and civil works, earth works,  
13 electrical, mechanical welding, et cetera, as well  
14 as equipment operating, drilling and then,  
15 obviously, manual labor as well. And then moving  
16 into skill sets like accounting, human resources,  
17 engineer and other technical groups. And, I  
18 mentioned the training program earlier. The  
19 training program will be focused on the skill sets  
20 that exist here in the state, but really training  
21 those skill sets to work in an environment that's  
22 new to the folks involved. So, essentially,  
23 training folks that have the skill set to work in an  
24 underground environment and understand hazards that  
25 are associated with it and how to properly manage

1 those.

2 This is the schedule that we've proposed.  
3 We're kind of in the first yellow column of items  
4 and pending favorable decisions then we march into a  
5 baseline study and feasibility study analysis which  
6 is first approved -- that analysis is approved by  
7 members of the public and DEP first. So, once  
8 that's approved then we have 2 to 3 years' worth of  
9 environment and different discipline studies at the  
10 site and then we can bring that back and parallel  
11 with feasibility studies and update our plan and  
12 proposal in a mine permit application to the DEP. If  
13 that's successful over, roughly, a year processed  
14 then we can initial construction and then  
15 construction is a 2 year period. Operation is about  
16 10 to 15 years. We're proposing 10 right now and  
17 then 2 to 3 years' worth of reclamation and then  
18 monitoring in perpetuity to make sure that nothing  
19 goes wrong. That is my shorter, hopefully,  
20 introduction to Pickett.

21 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you. Audie, do you want  
22 to give an estimate of how many people we have  
23 speaking?

24 MS. ARBO: It looks like we have 16.

25 MR. WORCESTER: Okay. Thank you. If you want

1 to speak this evening and have not yet signed up to  
2 do so please see one of the LUPC staff. Each  
3 speaker will have 5 minutes. At this time I would  
4 ask all persons planning to testify this evening to  
5 stand and raise their right hand. Do you affirm  
6 that the testimony you are about to give is the  
7 truth whole truth and nothing but the truth?

8 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: I do.

9 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you. You may be seated.  
10 LUPC staff will now begin calling people to speak.  
11 When your name is called you should come to the  
12 microphone which is located here. Please clearly  
13 identify yourself by name and place of residence and  
14 whether you represent another individual, firm, or  
15 legal entity before beginning your testimony. Speak  
16 clearly so that an accurate account of this  
17 proceeding may be recorded and to ensure that your  
18 comments can be considered. We have a court  
19 reporter here this evening. And, if you speak too  
20 quickly she has trouble keeping up. So, if you're  
21 one of those people who speaks quickly try to slow  
22 down just a little bit. If you have written  
23 testimony or other materials to submit make sure we  
24 get those materials before you leave and you can  
25 give them to people or Audie. Either way. You all

1 set to go?

2 MS. ARBO: Okay. I'm going to call people --  
3 the person to come up and then the person that's on  
4 deck so they can come up so we can keep it moving.  
5 The first person to come up be Jason Mitchell and  
6 then if Bill Brigio could come to the front that  
7 would be great.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. My name is BJ Mitchell.  
9 I'm here to urge the LUPC to deny the Pickett  
10 Mountain application for the rezoning. I'm a  
11 citizen of the Penobscot Nation. I've worked for my  
12 tribe's water resources program for the last 28 --  
13 29 years. I'm here to speak on my own behalf. I've  
14 seen firsthand how an industry can poison the waters  
15 and all the organisms that live in it. My wife and  
16 I chose to move to Patten where we're currently  
17 building a new house. We also have a camp on Grand  
18 Lake, Matagamon. We fish, hunt, snowmobile and ATV  
19 throughout the north Maine woods year round. I  
20 adamantly oppose the proposed mining operation on  
21 Picket Mountain. I fail to see any benefits to the  
22 north Maine woods. We have everything to lose and  
23 nothing to gain. Water is life. Without clean  
24 water there is no life. Thank you.

25 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

1 MS. ARBO: Up next is Bill Brigio followed by  
2 David Marshall.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Chairman Worcester, members  
4 of the Commission. My name is Bill Brigio. I live  
5 in Augusta and I represent District 60; the east  
6 side of Augusta in the Maine House. I retired 2  
7 years ago after a 43-year career in city management.  
8 The last 24 in Augusta. I appreciate -- perhaps  
9 more than many -- the often thankless and,  
10 certainly, difficult job of a municipal or state  
11 planning commission member and thank you for your  
12 service to the people of Maine. I was born in  
13 Houlton and raised in Caribou into high school when  
14 my parents rudely moved me and my 5 younger brothers  
15 to Massachusetts exiting the County like so many  
16 families in those days in search of expanded  
17 economic opportunities. I got back to Maine as  
18 quickly as I could, as they say, in 1979 to accept  
19 my first city manager's job in Calais where I met my  
20 wonderful wife for the past 39 years and we began  
21 our family. In 1998 after a stint managing a  
22 community in the Finger Lakes region of upstate New  
23 York we returned to Maine and I began my service in  
24 Augusta. That year my son was 12 and a promising  
25 hockey player. A fellow hockey dad and I became

1 friends and one afternoon he asked me if I liked to  
2 fish. Eric is another County boy from Houlton --  
3 the Houlton area -- who owns an old log cabin  
4 originally built by logger many years ago. When I  
5 expressed enthusiasm he invited me to join he and  
6 his long-time hunting and fishing companions on  
7 their annual spring trout fishing trip to Mud Lake.  
8 That excursion so akin to the ones I enjoyed as a  
9 boy growing up with a love for the outdoors in easy  
10 proximity to the woods and waters of the Aroostook,  
11 the St. John and the Allagash was soul restoring and  
12 I've returned to Mud Lake at least annually ever  
13 since. I can attest to you from first-hand  
14 experience that the cursory minimizing reference  
15 that Wolfden makes in the third paragraph of Page  
16 297 of this voluminous rezoning application to the  
17 nature of the trout and the land-lock salmon fishery  
18 centered at Mud Lake as part of the Pleasant Lake  
19 and Mud Lake flowage into the headwaters of the west  
20 branch of the Mattawamkeag River is a gross  
21 understatement of the reality of the natural  
22 treasure I know exists there. I will leave it to  
23 others with far more expertise than me to explain  
24 risks to surface and groundwater that a mining  
25 enterprise as proposed here presents. My purpose

1           tonight is to be sure that you hear the truth about  
2           the special pristine and increasingly scarce -- in  
3           the northeast -- resource that sits just below the  
4           proposed project. Some years ago as a veteran of  
5           the monumental project to remove the Edwards dam on  
6           the Kennebec River in Augusta I participated in a  
7           symposium and panel discussions in Missoula,  
8           Montana, on the challenges posed in trying to clean  
9           up the Clark Fork River after years of nearby heavy  
10          metal mining had poisoned it. It was a vivid  
11          education for me on the incongruity of heavy metal  
12          extraction and resource protection. A mine -- if  
13          zoned for by you all -- you permitted by DEP will  
14          come and then eventually will go. Its economic  
15          benefits to the area may or may not materialize as  
16          promised. Environmental damage -- unintentional as  
17          it may be -- will be irreversible at least to the  
18          extent that a fragile fishery has been impacted.  
19          With your copy of this testimony I've appended a few  
20          photographs of some of my trips to Mud Lake and I  
21          want to assure any wardens in the room that all  
22          catches conformed to IF&W daily bag limits. In one  
23          taken from the old camp you can see where Pickett  
24          Mountain Stream flows into Mud Lake. And the second  
25          taken from a newer camp site that my Eric acquired

1 for his 2 sons who have been coming to the lake  
2 since they were babies -- and very young ones -- you  
3 can appreciate the proximity of Pickett Mountain to  
4 the water. As the pictures illustrate what exists  
5 on Mud Lake is a primitive, backwoods vestige of  
6 Maine's ageless fishing and hunting traditions. It  
7 has survived and cohabitated with generations of  
8 logging and traditional sporting activities. It  
9 needs protection going forward. Thank you for  
10 listening to me. I'd be happy to answer any  
11 questions.

12 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

13 MS. ARBO: Up next is David Marshall and then  
14 if Rebecca Phillips can come up to be on deck,  
15 please.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Greetings, Chairman  
17 Worcester, members of the Commission and a special  
18 nod to Commissioner Peter Pray who I've known for  
19 decades now. Hello. Good to see you again, Peter;  
20 and to the staff. Thank you, Staff, for your  
21 contribution here today. My name is David Marshall.  
22 I'm the Penobscot County Commissioner for the Third  
23 District which is northern Penobscot County. It  
24 includes everything from Orono and the University of  
25 Maine, Old Town, Veazie all the way north to the

1 Aroostook County borer. It's a big area. I'm here  
2 to support the rezoning petition of Wolfden. It  
3 would allow the application simply to go forward in  
4 a process that will take years of study and critical  
5 review should that process continue to its  
6 culmination. It will allow Wolfden time to conduct  
7 further viability studies for economic and  
8 investment perspective -- which they have a  
9 responsibility to their people. If Wolfden then  
10 decides to pursue the project then they would be  
11 subject to critical scrutiny by both federal and  
12 state agencies, regulatory agencies, to ensure that  
13 the project meets all of the safety guidelines in  
14 enumerated in our state code. If Wolfden can meet  
15 all the requirements -- and they think they can --  
16 then the economic opportunities to northern  
17 Penobscot and southern Aroostook County would be  
18 profound. So, I'm here to simply support the  
19 process to move forward at this point and I thank  
20 you for your time.

21 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

22 MS. ARBO: Okay. Up next is Rebecca Phillips  
23 and if Frank Cox can move to the front. Thank you.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, Commission. My  
25 name is Rebecca Phillips and I'm a CPA with a

1 master's degree in business and healthcare finance.  
2 I've worked as a CPA in audit, taxation and  
3 governmental for many years. I have worked in many  
4 industries. I have audited industries such as towns  
5 and cities. I was an auditor -- a Medicare auditor,  
6 a compliance officer, a finance director, grant  
7 manager, a grant writer and a part-time town manager  
8 for a small town. I am a resident of Patten. I  
9 love this area. I have lived in Portland, Patten,  
10 Augusta, Bangor and Lubec. This is a great state.  
11 I have a few statistics from the census bureau.  
12 2021 population of Patten is 888. We are a  
13 declining population due to the lack of jobs. The  
14 median income in 2021 was \$37,292. The median age  
15 was 56 years old and 24 percent of Patten's  
16 population is living in poverty. I've worked for  
17 one of the companies that is opposing this mining  
18 project and I'd simply would like to remind the LUPC  
19 that some of the opponents are heavily subsidized by  
20 grants and federal funding from the federal  
21 government. And, I'm happy for them, but what I'd  
22 like to state is most of the people living in the  
23 Patten region, they are not receiving any subsidies  
24 and it is extremely difficult. We desperately need  
25 this project. And, I would like to mention, also,

1 that the Monument stated that they would not stand  
2 in the way of other community development, which is  
3 great. Also, the Monument continues to develop  
4 infrastructure within the Monument area. I am  
5 disappointed that people are trying to stop this  
6 Wolfden project before they have an opportunity to  
7 do their due diligence with research and development  
8 and many, many, many other compliance requirements.  
9 They need the opportunity to do this. And, why are  
10 the opponents afraid to trust the people who wrote  
11 the toughest mining law in the country? I ask you.  
12 They wrote the law. Let's give it a chance. Let's  
13 test it. There will be many opportunities to  
14 discuss it at a later date. And, I would like to  
15 say this, that this is a great state and all the  
16 parties in this state need to work together to  
17 ensure that we can live quality lives, overcome  
18 poverty and depression. I urge the LUPC to approve  
19 the Wolfden Rezoning -- the Pickett Mountain  
20 Rezoning and I thank you for listening.

21 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

22 MS. ARBO: Up next is Frank Cox and if Ken  
23 Gross can come to the front.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening ladies and  
25 gentlemen. I'm Frank Cox. I'm from Sherman, Maine.

1 I'm a strawberry farmer up there. I've farmed all  
2 my life up there. My farm overlooks Mt. Chase which  
3 is just in front of Pickett Mountain region just  
4 about 10 miles away. I set up on the ridge and I  
5 look at it. For 70 years I've looked at it every  
6 day, so this area means a lot to me, but I feel with  
7 the State of Maine with the toughest mining laws in  
8 the country along with Wolfden -- if we give him a  
9 chance to look at the information before we say  
10 no -- because maybe this isn't the fight to pull all  
11 the fur out. That's later down the road, but I feel  
12 that they should have a chance to come up with the  
13 rest of the information. And, I think instead of  
14 walking in front of them and try to trip them up or  
15 walk behind them to hold them back we're better off  
16 to walk beside them and put our minds together and  
17 move this project forward. Thank you very much.

18 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

19 MS. ARBO: Up next is Ken Gross and if Steve  
20 Gould could come forward.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, Commissioner,  
22 staff of the Land Use Planning Commission and  
23 everybody else in my community. My name is Ken  
24 Gross. I live here in Millinocket and I'm a  
25 registered Maine guide in this area, but more

1           importantly I also represent the -- I'm on the Board  
2           of Maine Wilderness Guide's Organization and it's in  
3           their behalf that I speak to you today. Our  
4           organization is strongly opposed to this mining  
5           proposal and we ask you to deny any rezoning  
6           changes. The mission of the Maine Wilderness  
7           Guide's Organization is to provide a unified voice  
8           for the profession of wilderness guiding while  
9           maintaining the highest professional standards;  
10          educational standards and stewardship standards for  
11          the conservation of remote woods and waters. We are  
12          dedicated to the protection of habitat and natural  
13          resources in the areas that we -- we guide for our  
14          livelihoods. So, in other words, we're not just  
15          doing this because we want to take people out and  
16          have a good time. This is something that is putting  
17          food on our tables as well. Our clients come to  
18          this area with the hopes of fishing, hunting,  
19          trapping, et cetera, and we believe that this mine  
20          will impact negatively our ability to do our jobs.  
21          Keep in mind that guiding has probably been one of  
22          the more traditional professions in this state and  
23          the proposed mine would degrade water quality and  
24          scenic beauty of the area and will negatively impact  
25          native brook trout and Atlantic salmon. Any

1 pollution from the mine could degrade water quality  
2 throughout the area and undo years of progress  
3 restoring fish habitats and other aquatic species.  
4 There's also a risk of light pollution from this  
5 operation as well. And, as I think we all know  
6 Katahdin Woods and Water National Monument has been  
7 declared a Dark-Sky sanctuary along with parts of  
8 the Appalachian Trails 100 mile wilderness. Maine  
9 cannot afford another mining disaster such as the  
10 one that happened at Callahan in Brooksville and we  
11 don't want to see this kind of situation repeated  
12 here in our community. The upper and lower Shin  
13 Pond, Baxter Park and Katahdin Woods and Waters  
14 National Monument would all be impacted by this  
15 project in a negative fashion. Wolfden has not  
16 demonstrated that he has the financial resources nor  
17 the technical nohow to safely construction and  
18 operate this proposed mine. The proposed mine is  
19 not well planned. I just heard something earlier  
20 tonight about how they are planning for a 500 year  
21 event such as a tremendous rainstorm and the thing I  
22 have a question on is, is, that based on historic  
23 data or projected data, for instance. We haven't  
24 been told where the ore processing facility will go.  
25 We haven't been told what the company's plan is for

1 storing toxic waste safely over the long terms. As  
2 we know, toxic chemicals such as cyanide are often a  
3 component of mining, leaches are used to separate  
4 the ore that they're seeking from the actual rock  
5 itself. So, on behalf of the Maine's Wilderness  
6 Guides Organization please deny this rezoning  
7 request. Thank you very much.

8 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

9 MS. ARBO: Up next we have Steven Gould and if  
10 Candace McKellar can come up front, please.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. I'm Steve Gould. I grew  
12 up in a town a little bit north of here; Sherman. I  
13 moved away for a few decades because that's what you  
14 do if you want a living up in this neck of the  
15 woods. I currently serve on the UVEC board which is  
16 the Upper Valley Economic Committee and I can say,  
17 generally speaking, we're in favor of Pickett  
18 Mountain. I looked at the plans that they have for  
19 mining the thing and I don't, personally, see a lot  
20 of concern, but during my career I moved away and I  
21 said I worked in manufacturing and some of that was  
22 setting up a couple factories in China. So,  
23 anything that brings industry back to the US and in  
24 particular this area because we definitely need it.  
25 I'm interested in it. And, again, I looked at this

1 for a while and I looked at the and I doesn't look  
2 risky to me at all, so I would say I'd be favor of  
3 it and thank you for your time.

4 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

5 MS. ARBO: Up next is Candace McKellar and if  
6 Gregg Smallwood could come forward, please.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, Commissioner.  
8 Thank you for being here. I'm Candy McKellar. I  
9 moved to the Island Falls/Sherman area 59 years ago  
10 and I am concerned about the flora of Maine. When  
11 JM Huber gave the nature conservancy the Thousand  
12 Acre Bog I started volunteering there. They've  
13 changed the name now to Crystal Bog and we've  
14 discovered the White Fringed Prairie Orchid there.  
15 It's the easternmost location of it in the United  
16 States and we have been monitoring it for 45 years,  
17 46 years, something like that. There are also other  
18 carnivorous plants, like 4 different species of  
19 sundew that could be affected by mine problems.  
20 And, I've also been -- I also belong to the Jocelyn  
21 Botanical Society the giant St. John's Wart which  
22 grows, like, 6 feet high on the banks of the west  
23 branch of the Mattawamkeag River down in Molunkus  
24 Township. So I want to show you how pristine the  
25 west branch of the Mattawamkeag River is. So, north

1 of Island Falls is very pristine. There's a small  
2 little river there. And, then as it moves down  
3 towards Island Falls it picks up more water from  
4 Fish Stream and Cold Brook. It goes past the Island  
5 Falls Historical Society. It goes under Route 2 and  
6 past the (inaudible) left from a power plant when  
7 they had a tannery in the early 1900s. From there it  
8 flows into the upper and lower Mattawamkeag River --  
9 lakes -- and there's a thoroughfare in between and  
10 then from this picture you can see it flows down to  
11 the east branch of the Mattawamkeag River and joins  
12 it and it goes into the Penobscot and then into the  
13 sea. I would ask that you please don't let a  
14 Pickett Mine disaster destroy our waters and our  
15 woods and our flowers. Thank you.

16 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

17 MS. ARBO: Up next is Gregg Smallwood and if  
18 Kent Smallwood can come forward, please.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Evening, everybody. My name  
20 is Gregg Smallwood. I've lived in town 59 years as  
21 of today and I am in favor of this. One of the  
22 reasons in the future we need people in our town to  
23 run our fire departments, our ambulances. We're  
24 having a hard time to cover them right now which  
25 every town is. The population in the schools in our

1 areas are going down. We need some more kids to  
2 bring that population up a little bit. Most of the  
3 negative talk against these mines are from years ago  
4 when they could put a mine in with very little rules  
5 to follow. That's most of the talk that I've heard  
6 about. I haven't heard of any newer mines failing  
7 at all. We've been to many meetings and as you know  
8 Nick Bennett said he spent 6 years writing the  
9 mining rules or laws. He said in a couple of the  
10 meetings that he would be okay with them mining if  
11 they could follow these rules. Another thing with a  
12 lot of these meetings we've gone to it always people  
13 from the south that are against this mining. What  
14 about us up north that need good paying jobs? We've  
15 got a lot of people that have moved in from  
16 Massachusetts that are against this. They made  
17 their money and now they're moving up here. Well,  
18 let us make a living up here too; a decent living.  
19 And, I will assure you there will be many people  
20 watching over them to make sure it's done and done  
21 right. Thank you.

22 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

23 MS. ARBO: Up next is Kent Smallwood followed  
24 by Mary Alice Mowry.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'll try to keep this short.

1 My name is Kent Smallwood and I've lived in Patten  
2 for 69 years. I've worked for the paper industry  
3 for 45 years. And, as you all know, there's been a  
4 big decline in the paper industry manufacturing  
5 jobs. It's really affected this area a lot. And I  
6 think a lot of this stuff has already been said, but  
7 I think they've made these laws so strict in Maine  
8 and it was said at one of our meetings in Patten  
9 about this that they made them so strict that nobody  
10 would ever be able to mine in Maine. Now, you've  
11 got somebody here that's willing to meet those  
12 standards and I think we ought to give them a  
13 chance. Otherwise, we're going to be dependent on  
14 other nations for our raw materials. And, you've  
15 heard about the jobs. And we definitely need jobs.  
16 Our schools are suffering. We can barely afford  
17 them. The tax burden is on our retired people in  
18 Patten and Sherman and Stacyville and Mt. Chase.  
19 It's real stiff. It's so stiff that people really  
20 can't afford to stay in their places at times.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

23 MS. ARBO: Up next is Mary Alice Mowry followed  
24 by Donald Ardell.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, Chairman,

1 members of th Committee and Director Beyer. My name  
2 is Mary Alice Mowry and I live in Patten, Maine. I  
3 don't usually read from my written words, but I  
4 wanted to try to be clear in expressing my thoughts  
5 tonight. I think of myself as a new local and I  
6 thank you for your service and commitment to the  
7 mission of the LUPC. Since early 2022 I have  
8 witnessed the campaign that Wolfden Resources has  
9 waged on the northern communities of the Katahdin  
10 region and have come to believe that this is the  
11 latest outside company to come in and promise the  
12 world only to leave the people in the region even  
13 more emptyhanded and disillusioned by unfulfilled  
14 promises to bring back the good old days. Not every  
15 local I know who is opposed to the mine could come  
16 to speak. They are out there. And some feel that  
17 it is risky to be public in their opposition. Many  
18 people in our state have close ties to this region.  
19 Close to 80 percent of Mt. Chase tax payers do not  
20 live here full time. The people who are opposed to  
21 Wolfden are not all those people from Portland.  
22 This mining project is important to this entire  
23 state. Other communities have stood up against  
24 Wolfden like Pembroke in Down East. And, yet, it is  
25 here that the Wolfden mining project has reopened

1 old wounds regarding the land that is now Katahdin  
2 Woods and Waters National Monument; wounds that were  
3 beginning to heal have been ripped open. It is a  
4 false equivalency to assert that if Roxanne Quimby  
5 can buy land and give it to the National Service,  
6 then Wolfden should be able to build a mine. I have  
7 watched divisions grow and deepen in our region over  
8 this time and over this mine. There has been little  
9 willingness to engage in true public debate about  
10 this project. Instead Wolfden's approached elected  
11 officials promising future resources and creating an  
12 atmosphere like a bidding war for who would be the  
13 first municipality to say yes to a mining facility  
14 in their town. Wolfden asked the people to decide  
15 to vote before any action with regulators had taken  
16 place. They seldom mentioned that their first  
17 application for rezoning was withdrawn after the  
18 LUPC informed them that the staff recommendation  
19 would be to deny the application. So now Wolfden  
20 has in their back pocket a number of municipalities  
21 who have voted on an unenforceable resolution that  
22 supports them. That's good for attracting more  
23 investors and bolstering their unequivocal claim of  
24 local support. The local support is not  
25 unequivocal. It has been hard to be opposed. I

1 have strived to be respectful about our differences.  
2 I want economic prosperity. I value the vibrancy of  
3 young people. I dream of a thriving community of  
4 both generations who have settled here and those who  
5 are saying yes to a new beginning by moving to this  
6 beautiful region. I don't believe that this project  
7 will help to fulfill any of this vision. The state  
8 legislature entrusted the LUPC to facilitate a  
9 robust and necessary planning, zoning and  
10 development process to the unorganized and  
11 de-organized areas of the state. The legislature  
12 did not want a check off the box process, but  
13 envisioned a deeply interactive process that  
14 protects the natural resources and the people of  
15 this state.

16 MR. WORCESTER: Excuse me. Your time has  
17 expired. Can you just summarize?

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes. I used your thing of 2  
19 pages double spaced. In closing I'd like to say  
20 that we are committed to the future of this region  
21 and that there is not enough evidence to support the  
22 LUPC going forward with a decision to move this  
23 project plan. Thank you.

24 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you. And your remarks  
25 will appear on our website in full.

1 MS. ARBO: Up next is Donald Ardell followed by  
2 Brian Noyes.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is  
4 Donny Ardell and I reside in Monticello, Maine and I  
5 represent Maine House District 6 in the Maine State  
6 Legislature. District 6 encompasses a series of  
7 towns from Castle Hill and Mapleton in the north and  
8 Merrill, Oxbow and Moro Plantation in the south  
9 nearly adjacent to the proposed mine. I'm here to  
10 support Wolfden's proposal. I've been briefed on  
11 the extraction plan and the robust ecological  
12 protections built into the plan and personally I am  
13 impressed. Even the most brief presentation of the  
14 Wolfden Project makes it clear that this is not open  
15 pit mining or mining from yesterday's century  
16 sensory. While the scale of the proposal is  
17 relatively modest the techniques used to extract the  
18 minerals are fully modern and respectful of the  
19 environment while providing a significant economic  
20 boost to the local economy. I think it's fair to  
21 say that the opposition to this project is based on  
22 a misunderstanding of the ecological protection  
23 built into the plan. My understanding is water  
24 testing will be conducted at a rate that far exceeds  
25 the minimum. This plan may be the most modern

1           subterranean extraction operation in the western  
2           hemisphere and maybe in the world and I would like  
3           for you to give it consideration with an open mind.  
4           I'd like to see young people like my own 4 children  
5           have sufficient employment opportunities to remain  
6           in the area and be able to rejuvenate our  
7           communities. Thank you very much for your time.

8           MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

9           MS. ARBO: Up next is Brian Noyes followed by  
10          Betsy Noyes.

11          AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello there. My name is  
12          Brian Noyes and I'm representing myself. I live in  
13          Patten, Maine. Hello, Commission, everyone here,  
14          people watching at home. As I said, I live in  
15          Patten with my wife and 3 fluffy dogs who are  
16          waiting at home and really want to be fed right now.  
17          I'd like to say I'm not an expert in any of the  
18          information that's here, but they used to call me  
19          smart back in high school 16 years ago so maybe that  
20          counts for something. Not sure. And, as everyone's  
21          time is short I'm going to try to make this quick.  
22          I've read nearly everything that is publically  
23          available on this project. I've listened to the  
24          public comment sessions. I've listened to the  
25          livestreams for the past 2 days. I listen a lot. I

1 don't talk very often, but I believe that this issue  
2 can be boiled down to 3 basic needs. First, our  
3 area needs jobs. That's easy to see to anyone who  
4 has lived in, driven through, looked online, saw a  
5 picture of the area. It's easy to see. Wolfden  
6 promises jobs. Lots of them that pay well. Should  
7 be an easy answer. I don't think so. These jobs  
8 have a time limit, 10 to 15 years at the max. And,  
9 a set of skills where mining isn't exactly something  
10 that's currently used in the area and may not be  
11 available afterwards. So, all of these young  
12 people, perhaps like myself, who would get some of  
13 these jobs they'd only be here a short time before  
14 they'd have to leave. That doesn't sound like a  
15 long term bonus to me. Second, and connected to  
16 that, is money. Everybody needs money; money,  
17 money, money, money, money. We want money coming  
18 into the area, economic opportunity for everyone.  
19 Could a mine make that happen? Personally I don't  
20 see how a business that is modeled taking riches out  
21 of the ground and transporting them elsewhere to be  
22 processed and sold can really add ongoing, long  
23 lasting benefit to any of our towns. I mean, I  
24 suppose that restaurants, construction companies and  
25 gas stations would be having plenty of business for

1 the next 10 to 15 years, but the last time I checked  
2 we don't all own restaurants, construction companies  
3 and gas stations. So that brings us to our third  
4 need; our land and our wildlife. I'm sure we've  
5 heard from plenty of people over this time, you  
6 know, we all want to see our land and our wildlife  
7 undisturbed. Nobody wants a toxic backyard.  
8 There's probably about a half a million people  
9 coming through this area who would very much like to  
10 not see it disturbed and devastated. And, if all  
11 goes well maybe this mine would not cause any issue,  
12 but what if it doesn't go well? There's so many  
13 questions that have gone unanswered and much is  
14 based on small data sets of the best case scenario.  
15 And, if we're talking about something as toxic as  
16 mine waste one little oops could poison the region  
17 for generations and that's not an oops that I can  
18 just cross my fingers and hope it doesn't happen, so  
19 that's three needs and three strikes. I -- pretty  
20 obviously -- am not for sports, but even I know that  
21 three strikes and you're out in baseball. I love  
22 this area with all my heart. I've lived here my  
23 entire life. My family has been here forever. My  
24 grandfather worked all of these woods. He's  
25 probably set foot on every square foot from here to

1 Patten and beyond and I'd love to be here until the  
2 day that I die, but if mine is approved, well, the  
3 safety I feel in my home, my well, my town, the road  
4 I use to travel to work every day, it would be gone  
5 in an instant. And, if I don't feel safe, than I'm  
6 not going to sit around waiting and hoping that I'm  
7 wrong. And I'd just end up another number in the  
8 statistics of young people leaving these rural  
9 areas. And, I don't really want to be a number.  
10 I'd rather be a letter or a punctuation mark,  
11 honestly. So, in conclusion, I do not support this  
12 mine and I really hope it doesn't happen. Thank you  
13 for your time, everyone.

14 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

15 MS. ARBO: Up next is Becky Noyes followed by  
16 Peter Lyford.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is Becky  
18 Noyes. I live in Patten. Following after my  
19 husband. He's a hard act. My parents came here in  
20 the '80s searching for life of living off the land.  
21 I was born here. I grew up here. I went to  
22 college. Came back home and I've been a  
23 veterinarian technician for 14 years. I've always  
24 loved the forest, the mountains, the creatures that  
25 inhabit it and Wolfden kind of threatens everything

1 I hold dear. My husband and I own a home with a  
2 well in Patten. There are no mines in the world  
3 that have not had a huge impact environmentally,  
4 especially on the surrounding waterways. If they  
5 want to prove me wrong, be my guest, but do it  
6 somewhere else. Maine is not the place to be  
7 experimenting. Outside the obvious massive water  
8 concerns I'm concerned about the endless traffic.  
9 Where I live is close to Route 11. We're going to  
10 have trucks rumbling up and down and I'm not going  
11 to feel comfortable walking -- you know, Route 11 is  
12 already a little -- as it is, but we don't really  
13 want to make it worse and then they're also wearing  
14 down our roads. The log trucks already do a number  
15 on them as it is. The other question, too, do the  
16 benefits outweigh the risk? US already has one of  
17 the world largest zinc mines. Do we really need to,  
18 you know, ruin something we have for something we  
19 already have an abundance of? Outside of the  
20 environmental concerns the jobs are already here.  
21 Pretty much every field, every store, everybody is  
22 looking for help. If anyone has tried to have  
23 anything get done; carpenters, electricians,  
24 plumbers, all these -- mechanics, medical personnel,  
25 everybody is looking for help. So, if they're

1           promising jobs, I feel these jobs are much better  
2           paying. They offer you a chance to even own your  
3           own business if you want, you know. Just, kind of,  
4           in short, you know, our greatest asset is our  
5           untouched wilderness, okay? People come all over  
6           the world to experience it. Many people live here,  
7           including myself, just because of it. Don't throw  
8           it all away. Don't open the door for this mining,  
9           you know, to come and take, you know, what they can  
10          get and leave, you know. A couple years of a bloom  
11          is not worth an eternity of a mess. Thank you.

12                 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

13                 MS. ARBO: Up next is Peter Lyford followed by  
14                 Susan Adams.

15                 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening Chairman  
16                 Worcester, and Counselor Elwell and distinguished  
17                 members of the Land Use Planning Commission. My  
18                 name is Peter Lyford and I live in Eddington and I  
19                 represent approximately 35,000 Mainers in Penobscot  
20                 and Hancock County in the Maine State Senate. I'm  
21                 also very familiar with this project area as I am  
22                 the chairman of the Land Management Committee for  
23                 Katahdin Charities, Incorporated, Boy Scouts of  
24                 America. We own land at Grand Lake Matagamon, not  
25                 too far from this proposed site. We bring in

1       troupes from all over the United States and Canada,  
2       we outfit them for 5 days and send them off on a  
3       trail for looking over the State of Maine and that  
4       area. I've sat with representative of Wolfden  
5       Resources multiple times and I'm interested in  
6       seeing this project move forward on the next phase.  
7       I was in the Maine State House of Representatives  
8       when LD 820 passed with strong support from the  
9       environmental advocate groups. And I believe that  
10      Chapter 200 includes more than adequate protection  
11      for our natural resources. LD 820, that committee,  
12      came out of committee with a 12 to 1 vote. And,  
13      there were some very high-profile folks on that  
14      committee; Saviello, retired Judge Ralph Tucker and  
15      Bob Duchesne. As an elected official I can  
16      appreciate the Committee's feelings as a  
17      responsibility not to punt this issue to the DEP.  
18      However, as a member of the Joint Standing Committee  
19      on environmental and natural resources I've worked  
20      closely with Commission Loyzim and her team on a  
21      range of issues including mining. I'm confident  
22      that your approval of rezoning is simply a start of  
23      a long and rigorous process for the applicant. I'm  
24      interested in seeing and learning if Maine mining is  
25      possible under the Chapter 200 and hope that you are

1 willing to allow Wolfden Resources to be the first  
2 to test these stringent rules under 200. We've  
3 allowed children laborers in China and other  
4 developing nations to mine rare earth materials  
5 necessary for our modern electronics for far too  
6 long with very little protection for human rights or  
7 the environment. Our state motto is *Dirigo*, which,  
8 as you certainly know, means I lead. I feel  
9 strongly at this time for Maine to lead the way for  
10 responsible mining projects, and therefore,  
11 respectfully ask your consideration on approving  
12 this petition for rezoning. In the first half of  
13 the 131st Legislature in my Committee of  
14 Environmental and Natural Resources we passed on a  
15 12 to 1 vote LD 1363. That allowed mining in Newry  
16 of the big lithium deposit that was discovered. So,  
17 I think that with responsible mining this rezoning  
18 could take place. Thank you for your attention.

19 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

20 MS. ARBO: Up next is Susan Adams followed by  
21 Lolly Hanson.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, Commissioner.  
23 Welcome to the Katahdin Region, except for Peter.  
24 Welcome home. My name is Susan Adams and I live up  
25 in Patten. I'm also the current President of Maine

1 Lakes, a nonprofit statewide organization that's  
2 voice for the protection of our most precious  
3 freshwater resources and wildlife habitat. I'd  
4 first like to start out by saying for millennia the  
5 Wabanaki People have been a part of this land I  
6 currently reside on. This land has nourished,  
7 healed, protected and embraced them for many  
8 generations in a relationship of balance and  
9 harmony. As a member of the Katahdin Region  
10 Community I acknowledge this legacy. I support and  
11 promote the continuation of this balance and  
12 harmony. I find great inspiration from this land;  
13 the land of the Wabanaki. I'm here tonight in  
14 opposition to Wolfden's Resources proposed mine and  
15 I respectfully ask that you reject their rezoning  
16 request. I grew up by the Lower Penobscot River at  
17 a time when industrial pollution was at its peak and  
18 our clam flats were closed and the fear that we  
19 would lose the beauty and the appeal of our place  
20 was real. Industry often won out over common sense  
21 and protection of our natural resources way back  
22 than. I attended Bangor High School and hold a  
23 bachelor of science degree from the University of  
24 Maine in environmental studies. My career has  
25 centered on outdoor recreation management primarily

1           within the incredible --

2                   MR. WORCESTER: Ma'am, can you just slow down a  
3           little.

4                   SUSAN ADAMS: I'm sorry. I'm nervous. My  
5           career has centered on outdoor recreation  
6           management, primarily within the incredible natural  
7           resources of the Katahdin Region. For 30 years I  
8           co-owned and operated a white-water photography  
9           business focused on the west branch of the Penobscot  
10          River. I'm currently involved in a variety of local  
11          organizations and advisory boards, including areas  
12          of academics and tourism. I made it a personal  
13          quest to get the dark sky designation for the  
14          Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Land.  
15          In the last 10 years I've seen a huge growth in  
16          outdoor recreation and a resurgence in eco-tourism  
17          in this region. The recent Katahdin Woods and  
18          Waters National Scenic Byways designation was based  
19          on the primary and intrinsic value of outdoor  
20          recreation encouraging new locals seeking a  
21          healthier place to live and raise their families to  
22          move here for these opportunities and the vibrant  
23          natural resources that go hand in hand. On a side  
24          note my son and future daughter-in-law are two of  
25          those that have migrated away from the overcrowded

1 out west back to the rural north woods region  
2 because of their love for Maine's natural resources  
3 and outdoor recreational opportunities afforded  
4 here. You can gather that I'm a devoted -- I'm  
5 devoted to my home state of Maine and that I highly  
6 value the land, water, dark skies and wildlife we're  
7 fortunate to have here. I'm heavily invested in the  
8 Katahdin Region and the long-term --

9 MR. WORCESTER: Ma'am, I'm going to caution you  
10 you're going to run out of time way before you get  
11 to the end.

12 SUSAN ADAMS: I was trying to talk really fast,  
13 but you told me to slow down.

14 MR. WORCESTER: Can you just summarize?

15 SUSAN ADAMS: I've been to Mud Lake. I've been  
16 up to Pleasant Lake. I've paddled them. If you  
17 haven't been there you need to go there before you  
18 make -- everybody should before they make these  
19 decisions. They're pristine. Wolfden's proposal is  
20 a threat to our clean water, aquatic habitat, dark  
21 skies and the outdoor economy as well as our way of  
22 life here in the region. I live less than 5 miles  
23 from where you're talking about and that makes a big  
24 difference to me. I do not support building a mine  
25 that benefit only a handful of people while

1           jeopardizing the very elements that make Maine  
2           special, especially not in the Katahdin Region so  
3           close to the Katahdin Woods and Waters National  
4           Monument and our beloved Baxter State Park. Not  
5           only am I concerned about the environmental and  
6           recreational impact of this proposed mine, Wolfden  
7           has not provided a preponderance of evidence that  
8           they can safely operate a mine. They have not  
9           provided information about the location of their  
10          processing --

11           MR. WORCESTER: Ma'am, you're way too fast.  
12          I'm sorry. You're not going to have time to read it  
13          all anyway. You can submit it and it will go on our  
14          website. You have one minute if you want to  
15          summarize.

16           SUSAN ADAMS: Please reject Wolfden's rezoning  
17          request. Thank you.

18           MR. WORCESTER: Thank you. And, I'm sorry for  
19          interrupting.

20           MS. ARBO: Up next is Molly Hanson. And then I  
21          have a couple people who signed up, but did not  
22          check speak here, but you wanted to speak. If you  
23          accidentally did that, come up and I'll put you on  
24          the list to speak.

25           AUDIENCE MEMBER: I give my thanks to everyone

1 here and to the Commissioner. My name is Molly  
2 Hanson. I'm a resident of Millinocket and my  
3 husband who is from Maine brought me here. I'm in  
4 love with Maine and I see the natural beauty and the  
5 tremendous wildlife as very much a part of what what  
6 this state is about. I'm very concerned about the  
7 mine. I feel -- what I'm hearing and what I'm  
8 reading is a lot of ifs; if they follow the rules.  
9 If they stay safe and I feel that this area -- which  
10 the State of Maine has done a very good job in  
11 bringing back the fisheries, protecting wildlife and  
12 we have this area where if -- especially in northern  
13 Penobscot -- an outdoor visitation for the beauty of  
14 this area, for the hunting, for the fishing, for  
15 outdoor recreation has become one of the dominant  
16 industries in this area and it brings a tremendous  
17 amount of visitors. So with the loss of the mill  
18 what we've been seeing since I've been a part of  
19 this community is a growth in the tourism and the  
20 recreation activities and I think that's part of the  
21 new economy here. And I really can -- I really feel  
22 for the communities that are struggling that have  
23 lost their old industries and I know that it's very  
24 difficult. So, when a company comes in -- a mining  
25 company comes in and promises jobs -- it's very --

1 we want to believe, but I've seen since -- I'm 62  
2 years old and I've seen a lot of problems from mines  
3 and I think that the talk is good, but what's left  
4 behind when the mine is gone is usually left for the  
5 people that live there and taxpayer to deal with.  
6 And so, I'm very concerned about that because I  
7 really don't think that there's enough evidence to  
8 prove that Wolfden can actually do what they say  
9 they can do. They don't have a track record. They  
10 really aren't showing enough of what people need to  
11 hear as far as enough information. They're talking  
12 a good talk. And, so, people want to believe this,  
13 but I don't think that the Penobscot area, the  
14 Katahdin area is where this should be tested. I  
15 appreciate Maine and the stringent mining rules, but  
16 I don't think that an area right by -- in the  
17 Katahdin Region that has the potential of affecting  
18 the Penobscot River and the Mattawamkeag River -- I  
19 mean -- yeah. I just think it's not the place to  
20 test it. This is a very pristine area in a lot of  
21 ways and I think, ultimately, it's bad for the  
22 economy where it's a short term, you know, 10 to 15  
23 years, but after that then what? So, I urge you to  
24 please reject the zoning requirement -- please  
25 reject the project. I don't support this. Thank

1           you.

2           MR. WORCESTER: Thank you. We understand what  
3           you said.

4           MS. ARBO: Next we have Len Warren.

5           AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is Len  
6           Warren. I'm a resident of Millinocket, Maine. I'm  
7           retired from the nature conservancy. I was a  
8           project manager in Nevada one of the largest mining  
9           states. I've done a lot of homework on mines and  
10          mining. First I want to tell you about my  
11          background as a fisherman. I've been a fisherman in  
12          Maine since I was a little boy and I still am;  
13          catching, salmon, trout small-mouth bass, enjoying  
14          the clean waters of the state. The improving  
15          economic situation that hasn't happened necessarily  
16          yet in the Patten area is -- I believe is starting  
17          to happen in the Millinocket area now and a lot of  
18          the process for the Millinocket area are coming  
19          because it's a great and beautiful place to live.  
20          They're friendly people and you can be in the woods  
21          by yourself in a few minutes catching fish, hunting.  
22          I've studied birds my whole life. Spent 15 years in  
23          the Death Valley region, found the nests, found the  
24          eggs, counted the babies, make the maps to record  
25          the breeding success ratio of multiple species and

1 hope to spend the rest of my life doing the same  
2 thing in northern Maine. I like to paint birds and  
3 spend a great deal of time in the outdoors. I'm not  
4 in favor of mining as an industry in pristine areas  
5 in Maine. I'm very concerned about the water  
6 quality issues. I've never seen good examples of  
7 mines that could produce good water quality results  
8 after that -- after mining. I've had many  
9 discussions with miners that, basically, looked at  
10 things, like, look. We have heavy equipment. We  
11 can build anything you need, so we can recreate this  
12 environment after we've destroyed it. No problem  
13 because we have machines that can do these things  
14 and it really doesn't work that way. I've worked  
15 very closely with endangered species throughout my  
16 life and mining doesn't go well in pristine areas  
17 and there's no track record that I know of of clean  
18 water after mining activities. It's an inherently  
19 destructive industry and I think we're wrong if we  
20 support mining in wilderness areas in Maine. Thank  
21 you.

22 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

23 MS. ARBO: I don't have anybody in the list.

24 MR. WORCESTER: I wish to remind everyone that  
25 the record will remain open for written comments

1           until Thursday, November 2, 2023, and for any  
2           additional -- and for another additional week until  
3           Thursday, November 9, 2023, for rebuttal testimony.  
4           Except for post-hearing briefs to be filed by the  
5           parties, no other evidence or testimony will be  
6           allowed into the record after that date. And, I  
7           might say if you have you haven't written it down or  
8           missed it or something you can go on our website and  
9           find these dates fairly easily. This hearing will  
10          continue with the technical session at 8:30 a.m.  
11          tomorrow here at Stearns Junior/Senior High School.  
12          The next public comment will be at 6:30 p.m., on  
13          October 23 -- which is Monday night -- 2023 at the  
14          Cross Insurance Center in Bangor. And, I just want  
15          to remind everybody that individuals may only  
16          provide testimony at one public comment session. In  
17          closing, thank you all. We appreciate your input.  
18          We really do. This meeting is over.

## CERTIFICATE

I, Karen A Dube-Harriman, a Notary Public in and for the State of Maine, hereby certify that on October 17, 2023, personally appeared before me: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, in the aforementioned cause of action: PICKETT MOUNTAIN MINE REZONING APPLICATION ZP 779-A, WOLFDEN MT. CHASE, LLC., and the foregoing, as reduced to computer type, is a true and accurate record of the evidence as taken by me by means of stenograph.

I further certify that I am a disinterested person in the event or outcome of the aforementioned cause.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I subscribe my hand and seal in Readfield, Maine, this 24th day of October, 2023.

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Karen A Dube-Harriman, Notary Public  
My Commission Expires, May 19, 2025

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