

February 18, 2026

Dear Selectpersons,

I am writing to express my concern about the mining ordinance as it is currently written. While I do think landowners should be able to access and take advantage of the resources on their property, it should be required to be done in a sustainable, responsible way that takes into consideration the impact on the larger community as a whole.

The ordinance as it is written offers the barest protection from exploitation, particularly Article IV section 1, registration of Existing Operations. Those first 180 days after the ordinance is enacted are not a loophole, they are an actual, open door for some people to do whatever they want with no regard to any rule whatsoever and be able to continue with no consequence, with your permission and legal protection.

Section 1 and it's 180 days should be eliminated and Article IV section 2 should be applicable from the start of the new ordinance.

Article III, Section 2 concerning the total pit size and working pit size. The working pit size allowed in the ordinance of 5 acres should be reduced to .5 - 2 acres. The total pit size needs an additional provision putting a limit on the size of the entire affected area, 5- 10 acres, so that it can't keep growing endlessly.

Alna is my hometown. I have been around the world, but came back here because it is a beautiful, special place. I was taught that you always leave a place better than you found it. This mining ordinance, as it is written, will not do that for Alna. It would be short sighted and show a true lack of concern for the future of our community to leave the ordinance as it is, with the doors wide open for exploitation.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,
Vanessa Saft