

Dear Senator Beth Reiley:

RE: SB 401 makes scenic waterways out of many gold bearing streams and SB 838 prohibits mining until 2016 on fish bearing streams

First we thank you for your service to the people of Oregon.

We have been going over some of the bills before the senate and find two bills that we greatly oppose.

The first is SB401. Prohibiting placer mining within 1/4 mile of these important gold bearing streams would be a takings of the miners' private property right in the minerals. Not only will this bill have a great financial hardship on Oregon's economics, and will especially hurt Eastern Oregon, but the resulting litigation from taking miners' private property will also hurt the state budget.

SB838 will have similar effects, prohibiting mining with suction dredges and off-channel mining within 300 feet of streams that have salmon, steelhead and bull trout. Again, this would be a takings of the miners' private property right in the minerals. This bill will also hurt Eastern Oregon, and it too will result in costly litigation that Oregon cannot afford.

Our mining community brings employment and demand for goods & services. By stopping mining in Oregon, revenue received through taxes and fees would be lost!

We believe that mining has a positive economic impact for Oregon and Oregonians.

We urge you to VOTE NO on SB401 and on SB838.

Sincerely;

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