

To: Beth Reiley, Committee Administrator

I would greatly appreciate it if you would show to the committee members and enter into the records, my letter of opposition to SB 838 and SB 401 or any other proposed bills that will limit or try to stop mining or responsible land usage in Oregon by her people. Thank you.....

My name is Richard Stocking and I live in Springfield, Oregon and have resided there for some time now. I am a retired carpenter that has taken up prospecting and small scale mining for gold and other precious minerals for the past several years. I enjoy this activity, using prospecting equipment such as suction dredges, high bankers, sluice boxes, hand pans and a good #2 shovel, and all these tools are used within the DEQ, EPA and Department of State Lands guidelines and regulations. In 2011, SB 765 was introduced by Senators Atkinson, Bates and Hass trying to eliminate suction dredging (and eventually all motorized mining equipment in Oregon waters) and met with stiff disapproval from the mining community, ranchers and outdoor enthusiasts....ultimately, the bill died because it was not good for the economy nor the people of Oregon.

Now, this renewed attempt at stopping gold mining in Oregon waters and on public lands has reared its ugly head in the forms of SB838 (formerly SB115), SB401 (brought back to life) and several others. I wish to go on record with the many others as opposing each one of these Senate Bills and STRONGLY encourage each of you to vote against their passage into law.

Many of us feel these Senate Bills will do nothing to improve our economy in Oregon or to improve the well being of rivers and streams across the State of Oregon (as they are well regulated now by DEQ, DSL EPA and other agencies) but will instead will cause a lot of people to go out of business due to lost revenue from the miners and other businesses that support a variety of outdoor activities. SB401 and SB838 will ultimately destroy mining as well as other industries and goes against what the majority of people in Oregon want...the ability to use the National Forests, BLM and Forest Service lands for outdoor recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, boating, hiking, back country skiing, mountain biking and yes, prospecting for precious minerals (ie: SMALL SCALE MINING) and so the list goes on and on. You are possibly thinking that these other outdoor activities are not included in these bills and will not be affected by these proposed bills and this is probably true for the very short term. But by passing these proposed bills, you would open the door to further legislation, with more fees and regulations that will ultimately damage and destroy these other activities right along with eliminating small scale mining for gold and other minerals by the small scale miners/prospectors. This is not good for Oregon and it's economy and you should be made aware of that.

It has become widely known that many special interest "environmentalists" have their own agendas and spend a considerable amount of time "influencing" some legislators to vote their agendas into law. Those agendas do NOT look out for the best interest of all Oregonians and it looks to us (the citizens of Oregon) like those that have been "influenced" do not care about the long-term economic backlash that will result from their selfish endeavors just as long as they get what they want from the deals that are made. What California is presently experiencing is a good example of what NOT TO DO to the economy and the people. Their people are heavily regulated, heavily taxed and the state is still going bankrupt....what does this yell to you!! Please consider this... What they have done is NOT working, so why do it in this state?? It just doesn't make good political or economic sense to follow a bad example and try to make it work here with a few alterations.

SO PLEASE.....I ask you again to vote NO on the passage of SB838, SB401 and any other bills that will harm Oregon and her citizens with stricter land usage bills, more regulations and

more fees. We have a good system in place now for mining and land usage regulations that has been working very well, so if it isn't broken, don't try to fix it!

Thank you for reading my letter of opposition.....Respectfully submitted by

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