

Senators and Representatives and Committee members,

I am writing this letter for the comments on Senate Bill 401 scenic waterway and Senate Bill 838. I want to let you all know that my life as well as my family are going through rough times, I supplement my income by suction dredging during the summer with my children and spouse. I buy the children's school cloths and pay for their sports which becomes very expensive and save up to get through tough times . I hear all the negative misinformation that has been spread throughout the media and all the environmental web sites and it is very disheartening knowing that we as suction dredgers don't hurt any type of fish or any other aquatic life. I started mining when I was nine years old and for 27 years the only thing I have seen change is that fishing has gotten better. There are a lot of science and peer viewed reports that have proven that suction dredging does not hurt the environment, and all the reports that I have seen are bias scientist and people or groups that don't like suction dredging. Not liking something don't give anyone a right to impose a moratorium or create a scenic waterway on a industry that has had to prove the facts over and over with science and reviews. The science we have comes directly from government studies and EPA reports we don't have any reason to manipulate anything we just want to be left alone and do what we do. If by chance all these onslaught of allegations continue then maybe the persons and/or groups should be held liable for harassment, let me tell you I feel harassed, I loose sleep at night not knowing the future and it has taken a tole on my well being. I know that you all are in a hard position and making decisions is your job, but use the facts and the True science not your opinion or any environmental groups opinion these studies are all over the place don't spend anymore taxpayer money playing the same record. One thing I ask of you, I know you most likely have never dredged before just watched videos maybe someone told you about it, if you and I mean you have no true idea of what goes on then try it yourself. We move gravels and sands just like mother nature just on a smaller scale, we remove metals and trash and dispose of it in the appropriate locations, the state of Oregon don't pay us nothing we do it for the gold we find, don't take it away from us this is our life and its in your hands. I will be paying attention to this issue and my family will be too.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,

Tom Pepiot  
1033 E Harrison Ave  
Cottage Grove, Or 97424  
5418448903