

Testimony of (Gerard Van Assche) before the Oregon Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee in support of Senate Bill 838 relating to suction dredging

April 15th, 2013

Senator Dingfelder, members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is (Gerard Van Assche) and I am here to speak as a citizen of Oregon. I strongly support Senate Bill 838, an act to enact a moratorium and create a new regulatory framework for the practice of suction dredge mining in Oregon's streams and rivers.

Include:

I moved to Oregon from Michigan because rivers were protected.

Recreation is increasingly becoming the economic draw to my region.

We saw the negative effects long ago on the Rouge River, let's learn from past mistakes.

Come and float the river with me to see just what is at stake.

I support the goals of SB 838 and urge members of the committee to vote in favor of this bill as well as amendments to require the implementation of the new regulatory framework. Thank you.

Gerard Van Assche

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