

April 10th, 2013

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

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.

Since I was a toddler, I have have camped, kayaked, photographed, and hiked the pristine rivers of Southern Oregon.

We must act now to stop the wantonly destructive practices of these few selfish minors who devastate these precious waterways, threatening our fishing industry and the future sustainability of this public-owned resource.

As they stand, these laws reflect the grab, rape, loot-as-you-please irresponsibility of the 19th century, when similarly selfish men cleared the plains of the buffalo, to little or no personal gain and vast public destruction. We must update these laws to reflect the responsible thinking of our current time.

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.

Testimony of Patricia L. Benton before the Oregon Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee in support of Senate Bill 838 relating to suction dredging.

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