

To: Oregon Senate Environmental Committee and Oregon House Environmental Committee

As a former business executive and owner (Abeton), I view the current legislative approaches to mining industry issues as short sighted and taking jobs off the table for many Oregon families.

The state of Oregon may have some difficulties in oversight of some individual sites but my information sources are of the opinion that this is due to the state agency focus of their fiscal resources toward preventive land slide and tsunami events rather than mining (revenue producing) activities which are in addition to aggregate mining. If it was not important for the governmental need for gravel and rock products, these gravel sites might be next in line for the same attempts of industry closure.

I would be happy to provide an objective document as written testimony clarifying the poor business sense these bills exhibit since commercial placer mining is much the same as aggregate mining for gravels with the exception that placer mining replaces nearly 100% of all the subsurface materials and in most cases will improve the surface overburden status of such sites.

It makes no logical sense to close down an industry simply because the State of Oregon cannot figure out how to address individual instances of resource abuse while the rest of the participants follow the strict rules and numerous State/Federal regulations of an over regulated industry.

It is very evident to clear minded individuals who know mining techniques that sites can be properly mined along or under streams without destruction to the water resources or wildlife. There are currently, numerous historical studies available to identify solutions to any concerns the supporters of these bills might have. The mining industry and the State of Oregon do not need yet another batch of studies which in most (if not all cases) will be redundant to previous studies. And while a minimum of two years would pass by, more Oregon families are pushed into the ranks of the unemployed so some employees of the state and selected, private consultants get to ruminate on the fate of a portion of Oregon's future use or non-use of natural resources.

Many small to medium, commercial mining ventures have already invested hundreds of thousands of dollars as they progress through the governmental processes to gain approval for new sites. Also, those mining currently would be impacted by these bills and at risk to immense financial losses. These individuals or companies invested their resources in good faith following all current regulations. Studies show that minerals removed from mining sites return dollar for dollar over twenty-six (26) times to the local economies. **WHY WOULD ANYONE VOTE FOR BILLS THAT HAVE SUCH A NEGATIVE FINANCIAL IMPACT TO THE SMALL COMMUNITIES OF OREGON AND THE PEOPLE OF THIS INDUSTRY???**

Finally, it is time to see the immense financial damage that inflation has had on families regarding fuel, food, and medical costs. These same families are not just miners but also the basic fabric of the population throughout Oregon. They are like the forgotten of the 1930's. Oregon needs legislative leadership that does not continue to push it's people out of work but instead allows those who have the desire, to provide for their families. They can and must be able to do this through jobs they individually choose even if it is menial or can be done without a

higher education degree. Do not continue to destroy their self- esteem by governmental intrusion.

Best regards,

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