

From: Jon Ball
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 12:53 PM
Subject: Reject SB 401 and SB 838

Dear Senator,

There is an attack on small-scale mining and hard working citizens of Oregon. Federal Law of 1872 affords all people of this great nation the right to mine public lands. Yes, the historical mining methods of the past were performed on massive large scales that appear very destructive, and frankly have left today's small scale mining operations with a bad reputation to overcome. But here are some facts about small scale mining regulation:

In Oregon we have 3 agencies involved in the permit process it provides checks and balances the DEQ, DSL and ODFW. Restrictions established by these agencies are sufficient to protect our rivers.

DEQ's 700pm permit protects water quality and gets its authority from the EPA and vests that authority to DSL.

DSL permits uphold regulations and conditions set in OAR 14-089-0650 and has authority over the waterways of Oregon.

ODFW biologists establish time periods to avoid vulnerable life stages for migration, spawning and rearing of

anadromous and other game fish and threatened, endangered, or other sensitive species are considered.

Best management practices are included in both permits to protect water quality and beneficial uses

including riparian vegetation, juvenile fish, and disrupting the food web.

existing regulations in Oregon have stood up to several lawsuits. Do not turn Oregon into California, with lawsuit after lawsuit, or one over stretched agency depending on a judge to tell scientists and biologists how to do their job.

As Oregonians we value the environment and diversity this great state has to offer.

Gold is only found in less than 1/3 of 1% of the rivers in Oregon.

Don't rely on hype. Think for yourself, go out and see that the small-scale miner has little negative effect on the environment and dredging is regulated to just 2 months out of the year,

restrictions established by the State of Oregon do protect fish and wildlife. Banning small-scale placer mining is just one more excuse not to visit Oregon, or to be on the waterways, which keep the habitat 'in the public eye.'

Our rivers and wild spaces should be for the enjoyment of all citizens of this great land.

Please make this a part of the record of SB115, SB370, SB388, SB401, SB838 and any future bills that unfairly target small-scale mining

Sincerely,

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