

From: Indigo Creek Outfitters
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 12:19 PM
To: Reiley Beth; Lutman Jennifer
Subject: Support of SB 838 and SB 401-5

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

My name is Will Volpert and I am writing you to support passage of SB 838 and SB 401-5. I am an Oregon resident and a small business owner in Ashland, Oregon.

My company, Indigo Creek Outfitters, runs whitewater rafting trips on the Rogue River near the town of Gold Hill, Oregon. We work very hard to provide a wonderful experience for all of our customers and serve many visitors who are looking to experience the Oregon outdoors, get away from hustle and bustle, and get a breath of fresh air.

Unfortunately, the stretch we float has become infested with dredges during the summer. Each day I see the shock in our customer's faces when they see and hear the many dozens of dredges our rafts have to navigate to get downstream.

I understand that dredging is tough work and that folks need to make a living. I also work hard to make a living, but I'm afraid my efforts are being countered by the negative impacts of suction dredging on the Rogue River. Please vote to pass SB 838 and SB 401-5 so that the many thousands of visitors who visit Oregon to recreate continue to support mine – and many other – Oregon small businesses.

Thank you,

Will Volpert
Owner, Indigo Creek Outfitters