

O4 April, 2013

Senator

RE: SB 838

I would like to make my STRONG objection to SB838 known, and made a part of the public record, as well as being informed via e-mail, phone, or postal mail as to the current, and/or future status of this bill, as well as its sister bill: SB 115, which I have previously commented against. My e-mail address is: bobbiedut@yahoo.com, and my physical address, and phone number are at the bottom of this letter.

SB 838 which as far as I can see is nothing more than an addendum to SB 115 is an attempt to deliberately reduce potential revenue to the citizens of this state, as well as to the State of Oregon.

By providing that a moratorium be imposed on certain mining, using any form of motorized equipment, and claiming that they pose a “significant risk” to the environment, you are deliberately trying to deceive yourselves, as well as me.

California’s Fish and Game studies of 1994, and most recently, in 2012 prove the junk science you are trying to shove down our throat, by clearly stating that the use of motorized equipment, and small scale suction dredging has a “less than significant” impact on the environment.

There are also a number of scientific studies available that you have access to that shows where small scale gold suction dredging actually improves habitat over time by providing increased spawning gravels, and better pool habitat in streams that have been dredged. Miners are not even allowed to work in streams when the sensitive life stages of salmon, and bull trout are present, thus no harm is done to these, or other sensitive species.

By declaring a moratorium on use of motorized equipment for placer mining, you are reducing, rather than enhancing the potential for jobs, tourism, recreation, that would increase revenues for all of the above, as well as the State of Oregon. This is an action that would have a devastating impact on small, rural communities especially.

By declaring an emergency you are denying the citizens of this state a say in our day to day living, and denying the citizens their rights to have a say in how they are being governed.

Respectfully

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