

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

SB 838

April 3, 2013

Honorable Senators Sen Jackie Dingfelder, Sen Alan Olsen, Sen Alan Bates, Sen Bill Hansell, and Sen Mark Hass,

I oppose SB 838,

Gold mining was one of the foundational goals of early Oregon settlers. It is the history of our State. The vast and rich resources of our state inspired a new beginning and hope for many people. Today it is still a great source of income and productive enterprise for our state when many other industries are failing.

These entrepreneur citizens pay taxes and increase pool of dollars that benefits Oregonians government programs and pay the salaries of government employees.

The resources of our great state need to be available to our people. To restrict the valid use of our state's resources to it's citizens, is to curtail their means of existence. It brings the question: "Who owns these resources?" We need to remember that the founders of our nation, knew and established that is the people who own them, not a separate government.

Numerous environmental studies, have shown that even motorized drudging of these rivers does not damage the ecosystem. In fact, in numerous Oragnic farming studies I have participated with [Elaine Ingham](#), a world-renowned soil microbiologist, now with the Rodale Institute, says that good soil, compost and compost tea have lots of air in their composition. She further explains that high levels of air actually increases air loving 'aerobic' bacteria populations. This is true for aqua culture too. Aerobic bacteria increase health and decrease disease. We know that water ways that have waterfalls in them actually help clean the water. The air content is the key.

Please do not pass SB838. Gold Mining will not harm the environment. The motorized drudging system will introduce air into these water ways. Gold mining adds to the state vitality and our environment. It is not sensible to lock up our resources in such difficult economic times as we find ourselves today.

Respectfully,
Janice Dysinger
Gresham, OR