

**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2013 4:42 PM  
**To:** Reiley Beth  
**Subject:** Comment on SB 838

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I will totally oppose SB 838 and similar bills.  
Now is not the time to cripple rural Oregon's economy . . . .  
Given the fact that real unemployment is at record levels in the rural areas . . .  
and gold remains at all time highs recently.  
It is the combination of those two factors that bring out the dredgers and the state should remain diligent to reboot the economy by any means necessary.

Anything short of that would be a violation of oath of office and considered economic subterfuge by some of the mining districts.

If anything is done . . . it should be at the CITY or county level in order to better serve the residents that must endure these troubling economic times.

Oregon does not have 1/10 the mercury problem that California has. If that.  
Some of the miners refer to Northern California as "The Caliban Area" and we do not need excessive and suppressive regulations in Oregon that are groundless and basically "Portlandia " type silliness that will be impossible to enforce.

Nobody likes pollution. We must study toxins in the environment, it is vital.  
We do not need extreme paranoia spread by the frivolous lawsuit filing industry to cause "phobias" about the environment. This is becoming the case in the urban areas and alot of it is real and worthy of regulation in these urban areas. But the rural areas do not experience the same level of toxins and really need to prospect for gold w/o being harrassed with over regulation.  
Mud and clay are not toxic . . . and the state would do well to classify them as "recyclable"  
Lead and Mercury are toxic and dredgers actually remove these from the water.  
Fish actually love to hang behind a dredge and feed off the organics that get stirred up.  
If the state wanted to , instead, go after industrial polluters, I would support that all the way.  
Dredgers add nothing to a water course that was not already there.