



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF OREGON

April 15, 2013

To: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Senator Jackie Dingfelder, Chair  
Members of the Committee

Re: SB 838, Moratorium on Suction Dredge Mining – SUPPORT

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. As a part of our study of Coastal issues, our members learned about dredging issues and, in particular, the exploding numbers of active suction dredge miners on the Rogue and Chetco Rivers. They learned about the potential effects on fish migration, spawning and rearing. As a result, they adopted the following position:

***“Recognizing that mining affects water quantity, quality, and habitat, mining practices should be strictly regulated to minimize damage and require restoration. In some instances where preserving water quality and habitat is vital, mining should be banned.”***

SB 838 embodies this position. It is written in a League-like manner: Issue a moratorium until 2018 so that a scientific study can be completed involving a wide variety of stakeholders. As a result of the study, a revised regulatory framework would be recommended that would include adequate fee structures for when such activities could occur so that Oregonians can be assured of adequate monitoring and enforcement.

We encourage your “do pass” vote on SB 838.

Sincerely,

Robin Wisdom  
President

Peggy Lynch  
Natural Resources Coordinator