

April 14, 2013

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

PLEASE VOTE AGAINST SB 838.

Mining, both commercial and recreational, has been a cultural value and right of the citizens since before this was a state.

I was of the understanding that there are federal laws which protect the right to participate in mining activities. I also believe that it is the federal government which has the authority over the mineral resources in the state. I have a small recreational claim and all my paperwork has to go through the BLM for keeping my claim in force. There are already adequate protections in place and paperwork must be processed every year with the feds on existing claims. If there is concern about how much mining is occurring, the simple answer would be to contact BLM and have recreational miners report their activities once a year.

The use of motorized equipment is necessary in many types of mining. This bill proposes punishing every citizen who participates in mining activities when there are already laws to protect the states waterways. If there is a specific problem that needs to be addressed, address it with the person causing the problem using the existing laws.

It seems like this legislative session, more than any I can remember, has bill after bill that punishes the innocent. I urge you to refuse to send this bill out of committee.

Thank you very much.

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