

Testimony of Tom Pepiot before the Oregon Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee in support of Senate Bill 838 relating to suction dredging

April 15th, 2013

Madam Chair, and members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Tom Pepiot and I am here to speak as a citizen of Oregon. I strongly oppose Senate Bill 838, an act to enact a moratorium and create a new regulatory framework for the practice of suction dredge mining in Oregon's streams and rivers.

- I have been a miner since I was 9, I helped my father supplement his income when I was in school now I have two boys 8 and 15 that we as a family use the gold that we find to supplement my income to allow them to have adequate clothing, play school sports and some day go to college we do this as a family.

- I am very concerned that I will not be able to support my family on my income alone if I we can't dredge then my children may not play sports have quality school cloths and won't have the ability to fund their own college tuition in the future I can't afford to send them on my own.

- I feel that this bill should be put to rest for the sake of all the people who depend on gold as their income, I hope this committee will not pass this bill for the sake of my family and our lives, we take pride in our environment and we take care of it, please don't ruin our lives to please certain groups and their agendas.

-This state is a great state, with regulations on suction dredging already in place why do we need to shut it down there is already science so there is no need for spending tax payers money to do studies, go out and see for yourself what we do before making any decisions.

I oppose the SB 838 and urge members of the committee to vote no on this bill as well as amendments to require the implementation of the new regulatory framework. Thank you.

Tom Pepiot

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