

TO: HONORABLE SENATOR ALLEN OLSEN

SUBJECT - SB-838

SIR: I am writing this letter requesting your support and backing to REJECT and DEFEAT this bill. I also request this letter to be made a part of public comments records.

Mr. Olsen, - I am a 70^{ish} year old gentleman, a native Oregonian whose family settled in Coos and Curry counties in the late 1800 hundreds. We were active and made our living basically in the farming and timber industries in this great state of Oregon which I am sure you know was 2 of the main industries that helped shape and ^{make} our state what it is today. The other main industries of the past being fishing and yes the GOLD rushes of the 1800's in North eastern corner and the Southwestern corners of our state, though short lived and over by 1870 or so they brought great revival and monetary income to the people and the state coffers. Earlier in the 1840's thru 1850's when California was experiencing their GOLD rushes and our state was in a financial dead pan our farming of produce and dairy products rose up and made a substantial financial and labor productive contribution to our growth by shipping the products out of our ports to California. Then our gold rush began, though short lived it helped immensely to grow and shape our state. Though very small today by past records there are still many many people whom enjoy looking for the elusive mineral and being in the great GOD giving beautiful green timbered outdoors of this, our, state.

Mr. Olsen, we the recreational placer miners, hobbyist, gold seekers of today do not need a high permit fee placed on us that will drive us away cause we can't afford such. Such a fee structure plus this moratorium will not only kill our hobby but will also totally force closures and possibly bankruptcy of many small businesses that are built and structured around this minor industry also cutting into state and local economies. When we go out for a outing (usually between 10 to 20 people) consider the monies we contribute to the economy in gas, motel, grocery stores, and restaurants to name a few, that will also no longer be supportive to the state. You might be surprised at the number of young people that have interest in this and come to these outings and are not on a street corner at night with a cigarette in their mouth and a chunk of chain in their back pocket. Sit, we don't need more regulation or laws or studies as they are already in place and have been done. If am under the understanding that one of the studies that's been done that shows the good of placer work has been withheld from the politicians by our government. There's already a study and law in effect how stream placering helps the fish ecology by removing algae and silt and aerating the water, removing lead and mercury from the streambeds. A member of one of several clubs I belong to recently showed us a small amount of mercury he had recovered from a stream by a sluice box about the size of a M+M candy. Sit, this isn't bad, this is GOOD for the ecology the stream and the fish!

Sir - at this place and time I do hope you are taking the time and still reading this letter, my feeble attempt at written communication that I somehow reach you in asking you for your support in this battle to defeat the SB-838 and moratorium that the governor wants. Sir this is wrong to the STATE of OREGON, the small businesses of the state and to the large number of people of this state. It is just taking away another right and privilege of ours and the citizens of our great state and destroying one of the great heritages that helped build this state.

Mr. Olson - I thank you, and my God bless you and hold you up and I would shake your hand if possible just for reading my letter and taking the time. Thank you

Please support us in this battle

Jeff Edwards

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P.S. - yes the address is now central Or due to health and location from logging at time of retirement.