

Thank you Chair Senator Dingfelder, and members of the committee for this opportunity.

I am Trevor Sheffield, from Albany, representing myself.

As student I oppose SB838, its ban on mining would make it impossible for me to continue paying for college, as mining is my sole source of income. This ban would not only keep me from continuing my college education and/or completing it. It will also shut down businesses that sell equipment, fuel, food, as well as many other different services. They depend on the business from miners, in order to stay open and provide jobs to Oregonians. This would be another blow to the economy of rural Oregon, thousands of jobs will be lost if this bill passes.

There is no scientific evidence of harm to fish or wildlife, but there are many studies that show the opposite. I have personally seen fish swim around me while I am using my suction dredge underwater happily eating the silt and nutrients I have stirred up. Last season alone I removed Thirty pounds of lead fishing weights from the rivers, as well as many bags of trash left scattered by boaters, campers, and fishermen.