

I request that the following:

TESTIMONY IN DIRECT OPPOSITION TO SB401-4-5 AND SB838

be made part of the permanent public record!

Senator Dingfelder, members of the Environmental and Natural Resources Committee

10 April, 2013

My name is Howard Conner. I am 72 years old, a citizen and veteran of the United States of America, and, a citizen of the wonderful state of Oregon for the last 23 years. I greatly appreciate your service for the good of all Oregonians!

My professional background includes designing and managing complex hospital departments such as Cardio-Vascular-Pulmonary, Clinical/Bio-Medical Engineering, Hazardous Materials Handling and community based Health, Safety & Disaster procedures and systems. As you know, effective Resource Management requires that ALL facts and potential consequences be honestly evaluated and decisions made irrespective of outside influences and manipulations.

Senate Bills 401 and 838 are of particular concern to me, because they both represent a Trojan Horse of factual deception and hidden agendas.

Many studies have already been done that show conclusively Suction Dredging, performed during in-water-work-periods, causes de-minimis and very temporary environmental impact to the river system or water quality and no impact to fish! Suction Dredging has been going on in Oregon waters for over 50 years, and yet Oregon has some of the purist water in the country! Addendum SB401-5 actually allows for Suction Dredging within the "Scenic River" system, but SB401 can make access to a stream channel Mining Claims impossible!

In both SB 401 and SB 838, it is not PROTECTION of the environment, but rather control over who gets to enjoy the land and waters of the State of Oregon, that is being determined. The real issue is: A quarter mile buffer zone along both sides of most water systems in Oregon, pretty much eliminates all citizens and activities that, by the nature of the activity and/or physical limitations of the citizen, requires transportation, motors and other amenities for access and use. Of course, the egregious narcissism of those individuals wishing to fish, hike, bird watch or otherwise experience Oregon's magnificent natural resources, undisturbed by lesser Oregonians, would be well served. These are elitist bills full of overt discrimination bias and prejudice! Makes access so difficult that only the financially and physically blessed can get there! Not to mention compromising private property values and constitutional rights.

If the sound of a dredge motor or an electric wheelchair interferes with someone's narcissistic desire for "peace and quiet", just get a law to exclude the disagreeable party?! If I go to a

playground to kick a ball around and “relax in peace and quiet” do I have the right to exclude you & your child from using the swing, just because it squeaks? Do I have the right to eliminate those who annoy me by passing a new laws limiting access? BULLIES seem to be everywhere!


The designation of all mineralized streams in Oregon, as Scenic, will shut down most mineral exploration in the state. Mineral exploration is primarily done in rural counties and the absence the “tourism” effect, of those who mine, will deprive those markets, gas stations and other small businesses of badly needed revenue. Not to mention those individuals who depend on mining to pay college tuition and/ or put food on their tables. First the timber industry was taken away from the rural counties and now mining. Why! Those people will have no choice, but to move to the BIG Cities!

UN Agenda 21 calls for more and more motor-free “Wilderness Areas”, “Scenic Waterways”, “Road less Areas” and “HUMAN FREE ZONES” throughout OREGON, and the West Coast!! When all is said and done much of Oregon will be an Oregonian-free zone!!

Senate Bills (401 & 838) have been deemed “Emergency – to immediately protect the public peace, health and safety”. Protect who from what? To appease those who fish? Protect the bill from further public debate, disclosure of truth and referendum? Floods, quakes and nuclear attacks are emergencies!! And, Oregon doesn't need any more studies to further bloat the states payroll or PERS deficit spending.

Please vote NO on SB 401-4-5 and SB 838.

Thank you, and God bless you in your service to Oregon.


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