

Chair Dingfelder, Members of the committee

My name is Cliff Leidecker I live at 777 Earhart Rd Rogue River, Oregon

I oppose SB 401 and SB 838. I highly support SB 838-1

I have lived in the small town of Rogue River for 37 years and prior to that was born and raised in Grants Pass. Yes, that makes me a native of Oregon so I consider this issue no small matter.

Please allow me to state some facts as I know them.

1 No private or government organization to date has determined that dredging has a significant impact on Fish populations or has been harmful to the environment.

Dredging does not add anything to the environment or water way, it only moves it around. This is the same thing that nature does on a regular basis.

Everyone knows that dredging is not causing any significant issues, just go look at the multitude of studies.

So how much more state money needs to be spent doing studies that will show the same results?

2 Mining is my Granted Right.

Mining is the historical foundation of this state.

What text book is now going to tell my kids that they can no longer mine for minerals after they already know that almost all things we use today are made from minerals?

3 Fishermen kill fish, not dredging.

If fish population impact is the issue then we better divert some of this attention to the fishing industry. I'm not against fishing at all, I've done my share. But lets look at the facts not just some groups opinions.

4 The Rivers are full of Lead fishing weights.

Everyone knows that lead in your drinking water is a problem. Just look at the changes that have been made to industry to remove lead.

So I ask this question; If Fish population is the issue, Could the many tons of lead in the rivers be causing problems to fish and humans?

Lead in the rivers is an issue and that's a fact, just like Mercury and Cadmium. Dredging is the only practical way of reducing the effects of these problems.

I personally have removed over 200lbs of lead from the Rogue River. I'm trying to do my part while I dredge.

If you take a look at these facts as a whole, dredging is definitely not a problem, it can actually be the remedy.

Please make this a part of the record of SB115, SB370, SB388, SB401, SB838, SB838-1 and any future bills that wrongfully target small-scale mining.

Thank you for this first time opportunity.

Cliff Leidecker
777 Earhat Rd
Rogue River, Oregon 97537