

From: Richard Stocking
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 10:06 AM
Subject: SB 838

Honorable Senators and Representatives:

It has come to my attention that SB 115, to stop motorized mining equipment in Oregon, has been secretly replaced by a VERY similar bill numbered SB 838 that will present a moratorium on suction dredging in the State of Oregon. And, after attending the public input hearing on this bill on April 15th, 2013 in Salem, Oregon and listening to the way the supporters of this legislation in their testimony, twisted and manipulated the scientifically proven facts that proves that suction dredging in Oregon doesn't harm the aquatic environment.....I am appalled and even more driven to ask you to reconsider passing this SB 838 and give it a resounding NO vote.

Again, I implore you, Please vote NO on this bill as it will do nothing but ruin many SMALL SCALE Miner's livelihoods, shut down businesses that support SMALL SCALE Mining and add to the economic woes that the State of Oregon is facing right now. PROSPECTING for gold and other precious minerals is a time honored tradition of SMALL SCALE mining in the State of Oregon and all the SCIENTIFIC DATA which has been done and presented by Federal Agencies (ie: EPA) proves that suction dredging in Oregon rivers and streams does not harm the aquatic environments and in fact, removes toxins from the waterways. These research papers have been published, presented in courts of law, scrutinized and ignored many times before and they will be looked at again and redone, as time, money and resources permit, with the same results...again, IF this bill is passed into law. In the meantime, miners that depend on this source of revenue for their incomes, will be shut down and businesses that support the miners will go out of business because of the lack of customers...this also will be because of the proposed moratorium. Look at the State of California and its moratorium on dredging and the resulting law suits and bankrupt economies as an example of what bad bills and bad spending habits have done to an industry that supported much of their economy. WE, as miners in Oregon, do not want the same mistake to happen in Oregon and ruin the lives of SMALL SCALE miners and the economies of smaller towns and businesses that support mining..... especially in these uncertain economic conditions. The monies that will be diverted from the State and County budgets to enforcing bogus bills like SB 838 and others that tamper with SMALL SCALE Mining, in my humble opinion, would be better spent somehow helping put the economy of Oregon back on track instead of taking away jobs and livelihoods. We have a regulatory system for suction dredging and other forms of SMALL SCALE MINING already in place...it is working just fine and in my opinion, shouldn't be "tweaked" to include more rules and regulations aimed at stopping SMALL SCALE MINING in Oregon. Adding larger fees to or taxes to or more regulations to the existing regulations or funding more environmental studies, while a suction dredge moratorium on SMALL SCALE MINING is in place, is NOT the answer. If passed, these bogus bills will essentially kill ANOTHER industry in the STATE of OREGON and further damage the economy and the lives of many people. The only ones that will be able to survive will be the VERY LARGE conglomerated mining concerns that will move in from other states across the country to continue to mine gold and other precious minerals. WHY?.....because they can afford it.....and that is not right for the SMALL SCALE MINERS in Oregon to lose their livelihoods.

Again, I strongly urge you to vote NO on SB 838 and other bills as they appear, as it is NOT good for Oregon. I would also like to go on the public record as opposing this SB 838 and hope you will do the same. Thank you for your time.....

Respectfully submitted by.....

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A concerned gold miner in the State of Oregon