

Dear Senator:

RE: Please vote no-SB 401 makes scenic waterways out of many gold bearing streams and SB 838 prohibits mining until 2016 on fish bearing streams

We understand that SB401 and SB838 are scheduled for hearings on April 15, 2013. We are opposed to both these bills. The North Fork Burnt River is one of the waterways targeted under SB401. We have mined for many years in the area of rock tailings left by the bucket line dredges that mined the river and valleys historically. Our operations were approved by the Forest Service after years of surveys were conducted. We have always conducted ongoing reclamation and the areas we have mined and reclaimed are better than they were before we started mining. Prohibiting placer mining within ¼ mile of this and other important gold bearing streams would be a takings of the miners' private property right in the minerals. Not only will this bill have a great financial hardship on Oregon's economics, and will especially hurt Eastern Oregon, but the resulting litigation from taking miners' private property will also hurt the state budget.

SB838 will have similar effects, prohibiting mining with suction dredges and off-channel mining within 300 feet of streams that have salmon, steelhead and bull trout until at least 2016. Again, this would be a takings of the miners' private property right in the minerals. All Plans of Operation are studied, designed and administered by the Forest Service to protect water quality and fish, so there is no reason for the moratorium or any further study. This bill will hurt Eastern Oregon, and it too will result in costly litigation that Oregon cannot afford.

We have heard that the target of these bills is suction dredge mining, however, it is obvious to us that those supporting these bills are against all mining in Oregon. This makes little sense, since Oregon needs jobs and mining provides jobs.

We urge you to **VOTE NO** on SB401 and on SB838.

Sincerely,

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