

Testimony of Tom Pepiot before the Oregon Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee in opposition of Senate Bill 838 and 401 relating to suction dredging

April 15th, 2013

Madam Chair, and members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Tom Pepiot and I am here to speak as a citizen of Oregon. I strongly oppose Senate Bill 838 and 401 and 401's amendments, in support of SB 838-1

- I have been a miner since I was 9, I helped my father supplement his income when I was in school now I have two boys 8 and 15 that we as a family use the gold that we find to supplement my income to allow them to have adequate clothing, play school sports and some day go to college we do this as a family.

- I am very concerned that I will not be able to support my family on my income alone if I we can't dredge then my children may not play sports have quality school cloths and won't have the ability to fund their own college tuition in the future I can't afford to send them on my own. I also want to say that with all the troubles that teenagers are faced with today my two boys have been able to avoid those troubles and I hope they continue to do so in the future we spend a lot of time in the outdoors, suction dredging is part of our lives, it keeps us from going in to financial debt and keeps them away from the negative aspects of what the world has become today.

- I feel that these bills should be put to rest for the sake of all the people who depend on gold as their income, I hope this committee will not pass these bills for the sake of my family and our lives, we take pride in our environment and we take care of it, please don't ruin our lives to please certain groups and their agendas.

-This state is a great state, with regulations on suction dredging already in place why do we need to shut it down there is already science so there is no need for spending tax payer's money to do studies, go out and see for yourself what we do before making any decisions.

I oppose the SB 838 and 401 and urge members of the committee to vote no on these bills, also I am in favor for SB 838-1. Thank you.

Tom Pepiot

1033 E Harrison Ave Cottage Grove Or 97424

541-844-8903

[TPepiot@aol.com](mailto:TPepiot@aol.com)