

From: Wolfgang Nebmaier
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2013 10:51 PM
To: Reiley Beth
Subject: I urge you to support Senate Bill 838 re to stop Suction Dredge Mining

Senator Dingfelder and members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

I urge you to support Senate Bill 838 to implement a 5-year moratorium on suction dredge mining in Oregon's streams and rivers and to establish a new regulatory framework for this damaging practice.

Suction Dredge Mining and the Damage it Causes:

It is no secret, suction dredge mining destroys fish habitat by introducing sediment into the streams. Miners may want to believe that the sediment they cause is minimal and not of significant impact because it is not highly visible in disturbed water, but fish biologists agree that the silt released in low flow areas (where miners work) settles close downstream and chokes the spawning grounds for endangered fish species here in Oregon.

Since CA Banned Suction Dredge Mining, Oregon is even Harder Hit:

It is even more important at this time to pass this bill because since suction dredge mining was banned in CA, we are getting an influx of people coming to Oregon to dredge. The damaging impact on our streams and rivers has greatly increased and will continue to do so if you do not pass this bill.

I grew up in Southern Bavaria, a landscape prized worldwide for its beauty and recreational value. But I also saw what unchecked "use" of natural resources will do, and how it can take decades to restore balance – or never be achieved.

I have lived in this country more than half my life, first came here in 1973. My first visit to Oregon was in 2001 and I bought our home here in

2004 to a place surrounded by forests and mountains. It's a kind of coming home for me. The stream that goes through our land is a tributary to Shanks Creek which flows into Grave Creek which, in turn, is a tributary of the Rogue River.

It would be unthinkable for us to do anything on our land that would impair the health of the creeks and rivers downstream and cause damage to the fish habitat.

I can only underscore what my wife says: There is no dividing nature up into sections. Everything affects everything else. Suction dredge mining is not confined to the small area in which it happens, but rather has a

(literal) downstream affect which must be regulated for the health of the whole ecosystem. The affects of mining must be monitored in relation to its impact on the Commons.

Please support Bill 838.

Thank you,

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