

**Samuel Seth**

**1977 Chelan St. NE Keizer, OR 97303**

**Personal Testimony Regarding HB 2248**

**2/28/2013**

**Good morning chair Representative Mr. Witt, members of the committee. My name is Samuel Seth; address 1977 Chelan St NE in Keizer. I am representing myself as a small scale independent placer gold miner. I strongly oppose HB 2248 as it is currently written. My mining operations support my college education, and it would hinder my ability to continue attending college without this important source of income.**

**The new fees and permitting processes that would be established by the proposed amendments to HB 2248 as currently written are prohibitively expensive, and would destroy my source of income. My mining activities are dependent on low overhead costs. I could not afford thousands of dollars of extra fees imposed by this bill – the existing regulations and high fees currently in place regulate large operations moving in excess of 5,000 cubic yards of ore per year utilizing chemical processing methods. My operations move less than 25 cubic yards of material per year, and I never use chemicals in any stage of my gold recovery process. It defies logic and common sense to pass legislation that would lump these vastly different operations together, and regulate them in the same way with the same fee structure.**

**Furthermore, HB 2248 would place an unacceptable financial burden on the State of Oregon through increased permit review processes and onsite inspection. This bill would destroy the livelihood of many Oregonians, and a large source of income for me would vanish. I respectfully urge you all to closely examine this bill and not allow it to ruin the lives of so many of your fellow Oregonians.**

**Thank you chair representative Mr. Witt and committee members for the opportunity to testify before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions.**