

Thank you Chair representative Mr.Witt, and members of the committee for this opportunity.

I am Trevor Sheffield, from Albany, representing myself.

I oppose HB 2248, specifically the additions and subtractions to it. As written HB 2248 will make it next to impossible for me to engage in small scale mining activities. With the permit fees and fines as proposed I could not afford to continue mining. Small scale mining is currently my main source of income to help provide funds for possible future schooling. As I understand the changes, it will affect everything from a suction dredging to gold panning, using the principle of specific gravity. This bill appears to be originally written for large scale mining that had the money to deal with such large permit fees and fines. As a small scale operator, I would not be able to afford these fees. I respectfully ask to you to consider this bill more carefully, consider its impacts to me and the mining community, or throw it out.

Thank you Chair Representative Mr.Witt and the committee for allowing me to testify, and I would be glad to answer any questions.