



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

April 16, 2015

To: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Senator Chris Edwards, Chair
Members of the Committee
beth.reiley@state.or.us

Re: SB 830, Removes Moratorium on Suction Dredge Mining & directs DEQ to do
rulemaking on consolidated permit program – SUPPORT

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. As a part of our study of Coastal issues, our members learned about dredging issues and, in particular, the exploding numbers of active suction dredge miners on the Rogue and Chetco Rivers. They learned about the potential effects on fish migration, spawning and rearing. As a result, they adopted the following position:

“Recognizing that mining affects water quantity, quality, and habitat, mining practices should be strictly regulated to minimize damage and require restoration. In some instances where preserving water quality and habitat is vital, mining should be banned.”

We supported SB 838 (2013) as a mechanism to consider options for addressing this important water quality and economic activity. SB 830 would address the outstanding issues by directing the Environmental Quality Commission to adopt rules establishing a consolidated permitting program and setting up both opportunities and sideboards on this activity.

We encourage your “do pass” vote on SB 830.

Sincerely,

Robin Wisdom
President

Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator