

**From:** [TPepiot@aol.com](mailto:TPepiot@aol.com) [<mailto:TPepiot@aol.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2015 2:51 PM

**To:** Reiley Beth

**Subject:** Comment SB830

Honorable Senator,

I am deeply concerned with SB 830, this is because the permit structure has become so restrictive we can not use a suction dredge or any other motorized mining equipment within all the waters of this fine state of Oregon. We are way beyond being able to practically use a suction dredge or sluice box because of the limitations set forth in the permit. In California this same issue has arose and now is in the middle of court disputes and is beginning to tip in the miners favor the state of California came up with permits, laws, and various senate bills and such to deal with the motorized suction mining and ended up requiring permits, but had no permits to issue, big problem, then with the moratorium on suction dredging they broke federal laws then comes the part of the 1866 and 1872 mining laws that describes who can regulate and how much they can regulate. Well the State of Oregon and its agencies are stepping a fine line with federal law. I have an issue with the power ODEQ, ODSL, and all the environmental groups have when it comes to what they don't like. They don't like river restrictions "Dams", so these agencies devise a plan to remove Gold Ray Dam, and Salvage Rapids Dam on the Rouge River, all fine and dandy but what about all the sediment behind these dams big question. How could all those toxins behind those dams be good for the environment, there was a massive mudflow that reached a mile out into the ocean miles and miles of turbid waters flowing down the Rouge but at what impact, not a single thing the reports afterwards no significant impacts to wildlife or to various species in the water ways. So all was ok and now we come to suction dredging a small motorized machine we use to remove heavy metals from the waterways, all done at our expense with our pay is the gold we recover, not ok to dredge because of turbidity, we remove mercury that was allowed to flow freely during dam removal ??? . I understand the issues with property owners and other recreational purposes that are affected but these environmental issues that we continue to hear are false and more and more for the false information is being spread through Oregon Legislation like a disease.

I ask you and the rest of this committee to vote no on this bill and all the other bills that just don't make any sense that involve motorized suction mining and start listening to the miners we got out numbered at each group meetings we attended and all the concerns and ideas we had at ODEQ meetings were pushed to the side like our concerns and ideas do not matter, the new ODEQ permit has only favored environmental groups and those of the agencies involved, so please look and hear our concerns and act with them not ignore them. We are more than happy to show you what we do and educate you on suction mining.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Thomas A Pepiot  
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