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Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 12:45 PM

To: Reiley Beth

Cc: Sen Thomsen; Sen Dembrow; Sen Edwards C; Sen Olsen; Sen Prozanski; Sen Girod

Subject: Letter in Opposition to SB830

To: Chair Sen. Chris Edwards, Vice-Chair Sen Alan Olsen, member Sen. Chuck Thomsen, member Sen. Floyd Prozanski and Sen Michael Dembrow

Millennium Diggers Response to SB 830

Claudia Wise, Joe Greene and I met a few days ago in effort to come up with amendments to SB830 that would make this an acceptable bill, and after getting halfway through it with six amendments, we decided that if we proposed ten and were given three, or even six, the bill would still be unacceptable. We used Jan Alexander's and Guy Michael's suggested amendments as a guide, and agreed with many, but still found the finished product lacking in a balanced and transparent approach. There are compromises, glaring opportunities for abuse and unfair and overreaching regulation, as well as third party interference. Indian tribes should have no say regarding federal mining claims nor should tribal representatives be meeting with DEQ to promote further regulation against small scale miners.

In the end, we must oppose this bill. Otherwise, a good and simple fix would exempt Mining Districts, preserving the authority of mining districts and the relationship they have with the federal government, thus allowing the state to regulate their public recreation areas without interfering with mining.

We see no possible middle road in this bill that would allow federal mining claim holders the ability to work their claims without the state meeting annually to find more ways to materially and economically interfere. The state can only offer fair environmental regulation, which they have not shown to be able to comprehend.

We are offering as our amendments to SB 830 the California 1994 Suction Dredge regulations as an example we believe Oregon small scale miners could live with that in all instances as expressed by the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (then Ca dept. Of Fish and Game) is protective of fish and wildlife. This document attached could also be amended to include upland placer mining and be rewritten into an appropriate Oregon small scale mining regulation document in consultation with Oregon mining community associations as required by law. Proposed regulations begin on pg. 103 of EIR document.

Karen Darnell
Millennium Diggers Association, President
April 13, 2015