

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

I am writing this afternoon in strong opposition of SB830 regarding repealing moratorium of suction dredge mining.

This bill is seriously flawed.

It allows an unbalanced, biased group of agencies to determine the rules of another group. This rulemaking group includes third parties, those who are publicly opposed to the activity for which they are in charge of creating rules. There are no representatives from the regulated group even required on that rulemaking committee. The committee will meet annually to create new rules, changing regulations every year and confusing those who depend on accurate knowledge to remain compliant. How fair is that?

Permits would be arbitrarily granted or rejected after passing through review of all rulemaking groups, even those with a publicly-known opposition to mining.

The bill seeks only to allow suction dredges and no other efficient motorized equipment, like highbankers, which were not even part of SB838, but included in rulemaking after it became law.

Permits are applied for online where the information is accessible for enforcement purposes. The bill requires the permitting applicant to register the GPS coordinates and the roads, routes and trails used to get to that location. Would you publicly post the location and combination to your safe deposit box?

The stream areas that are allowed to be worked prevent profitable prospecting by disallowing the search for "the gold line." Gold deposition follows a line in the stream, and is deposited in the gravel bars that would be off-limits in this bill.

It requires government expansion by the formation of "management zones," which would require enforcement personnel and equipment.

This bill is a complete mess and I will spare you the rest of the job-killing, govt growing details. And on top of all of this - the science says that there is no damage, anyway, as long as we stay out of the water during non-in water work periods.

Please vote NO - kill this bill!

Karen Darnell  
Hubbard