

From: Karen Darnell
To: [Raszka Shelley](#)
Subject: RE: SB3 from Karen Darnell
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 11:48:12 AM

Hi Shelley, please enter this letter into testimony if it is being collected.

Thanks,
Karen Darnell

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Good afternoon, Committee

I am writing to you [today](#) to respectfully ask you to consider some important expected impacts of this bill, and with this consideration conclude that this bill should not move forward.

Since the implementation of SB838, several negative outcomes and no widely-enjoyed positive outcomes are evident, so we may know that the passage of SB3 will continue the same effects.

Passage of SB3 will continue the downhill economic trend for Oregon and reduce our competition in the global marketplace. I have found no factual data to suggest that the passage of SB3 will improve salmon counts and strengthen our fishing industry.

The negative impact to which I can most easily point is the bankruptcy and closure of D&K Prospecting in Portland, which served the industry from southern Washington to Eugene. They were the largest vendor at all of the region's trade shows. They were the only fully-stocked mining and prospecting supply store north of Grants Pass and west of Sumpter. The Lifestyle Store in Bend, owned by Les and Carol Berg, closed last year. The options now for western Oregon are Armadillo Mining Supply in Grants Pass or out of state vendors. (Action Mining is in Gresham, but they are geared for hard rock mining, not placer.)

There is a *USFS study finding that the loss to Oregon, just in ancillary spending - not production loss, is \$17 million annually. I don't know what the production loss figures are for the last two years of the moratorium.

While there may be a few positive outcomes from SB838, those are small potatoes in relation to the big picture. A few people in Gold Hill may experience a more peaceful backyard for a month and a half each year. There may be less traffic in rural riverside areas.

Without question there are less taxes being paid by Oregonians connected to the industry and the tourist industry cannot pick up the slack.

The passage of SB3 is not a good move toward Oregon's fiscal responsibility and healthy market competition, so I am urging a "nay" on passing it out of committee.

Best Regards,
Karen Darnell
Hubbard, Senate Dist 9, House Dist 18
(541) 841-0294

*Siskiyou National Forest Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Approving of Suction Dredge Plans of Operation, Dec. 2001

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE Tablet