

From: karen riener
To: Sen.MichaelDembrow@state.or.us; Sen.AlanOlsen@state.or.us; Sen.HermanBaertschiger@state.or.us; [Sen Roblan](#); [Raszka Shelley](#); [SENR Exhibits](#); [Patrino Beth](#)
Subject: SB644 no support in Eastern Oregon
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 7:04:29 PM

Dear Chair Dembrow and members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

It has come to my attention that SB644 would allow surface mining in central and eastern Oregon without the process of acquiring a conditional use permit, no guidelines, and no review by locally elected officials. Really? Is this even anywhere near true?

I live in eastern Oregon, in a rural area. We are already struggling with human caused effects from soil erosion polluting our creeks due to road runoff, logging on steep slopes and in riparian areas, overgrazing, and poorly managed ditches. Our water bodies are already being polluted with agricultural chemicals from runoff from the fields. To even consider giving miners the freedom to surface mine without guidelines or permits is compounding an already aggravated problem. If anything, miners should be required to use more care to not pollute.

I actually witnessed some people using instream equipment to dredge the creek bottom. The plume of silt stirred up grew until it was bank to bank and then the creek was cloudy for many tens of miles downstream until it reached the reservoir. Siltation in streams clogs the bottom surface, making it like cement which greatly reduces the habitat quality for the larvae and other bottoms feeders which fish live on.

In addition, siltation in the stream enters into the ditches. I use irrigation equipment that is clogged up by silt. It's already a problem for us.

If miners are given the luxury of tearing up the earth without guidelines, without permits that contain stipulations for protecting the area and its waters, and without review or monitoring by the professionals who know the effects of pollution, then those residents already trying to make a living in the area, under already existing rules for protecting the earth, will be struggling all the more to offset the effects of additional pollution.

SB644 is not a wise bill. Please do not support it.

Sincerely, Karen Riener

Richland, Oregon

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