

From: David Jenkins
To: Sen.MichaelDembrow@state.or.us; Sen.AlanOlsen@state.or.us; Sen.HermanBaertschiger@state.or.us; Sen.Roblan; Sen.FloydProzanski@state.or.us
Cc: Raszka.Shelley; [SENR Exhibits](#)
Subject: SB 644
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 6:22:38 PM

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

Please accept my written comments as testimony in opposition to SB 644.

Should we also flood the Sistine Chapel so tourists can get nearer the ceiling?

I live near a 100 year old abandoned mine site in Deschutes County and have witnessed first hand what impacts surface mining has had around this mine and in this county.

1) Surface mining is regulated by DOGAMI that only has 5 inspectors for 800 mines in the state.

It is, to be sure, an industry that is not watched for illegal acts and abuse. The 5 inspectors have to call a mine

owner before inspecting the mine! This ensures nobody gets caught doing dubious things.

2) SB 644 is a misguided proposal that represents a very small interest group who's interest is to completely destroy

the rural character of Oregon leaving an eyesore for many, many years to come.

3) The impacts of dust, traffic, erosion, noise and environmental damage does a bang up job to disrupt the peaceful EFU areas of Oregon.

Lokk at the impact of mining on Salmon. They are on life support and mining hastened their demise. Rehabilitation is an expensive hobby.

4) Conditional Use permits, already in place Oregon actually serve to hold people accountable for their actions.

5) Mining anywhere near a waterway will destroy fish, wildlife and native vegetation.

I should know, as I live near a 100 year old mine in Dechutes County surrounded by EFU land.

~ The mine was a refractory whose number 1 product was a Group 1 Carcinogen (Cristobalite)
The respirable waste from this process was dumped at the site and left to blow in the wind forever.

This respirable waste does not biodegrade and is still at the site. About 200,000 tons.

~ Only 21 acres of this 576-acre site has been reclaimed and the reclamation was not successful, at all.

Deschutes County and area contractors illegally used topsoil earmarked for reclamation for area roads and subdivisions.

~ The site was an illegal, uncontrolled hazardous waste site for 8 years.

Waste included Gamma Level Radioactive waste, Cyanide, Chromium, PCBs and Volatile Organic Compounds.

~ The site was also an unsupervised public dump used by 600 people before environmental laws were created.

This waste is still in the ground.

~ There has been 25 years of non-permitted and illegal mining at this site. Not one dollar in fines was ever collected

by the state of Oregon for these crimes.

In summary, I do not think our waterways, EFU land, native vegetation and wildlife can bear SB 644.

I would strongly urge you to vote against this bill and any other bill of the same cloth from this day forward unless you would like to see the semis of EFU land in EFU.

Submitted respectfully,

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