

To: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Senator Michael Dembrow
Senator Alan Olsen
Senator Herman Baertschiger, Jr.
Senator Floyd Prozanski
Senator Arnie Roblan

Re: Comment/written testimony urging “yes” vote on Senate Bill 3

Date: February 2, 2017

I write as a landowner, small business owner, and rural resident of Jackson County, Oregon, to urge the members of this committee to support passage of Senate Bill 3 concerning the moratorium on, and regulatory framework for, suction dredge and related types of in-stream mining activities.

As a farmer dependent on irrigation from the Little Applegate River, I support SB 3 as a necessary “next step” in assuring a consolidated permitting process that will lead to both efficiency and consistency and also to the kind of well-thought-out permanent permitting standards for the post-moratorium era that will protect our endangered water supplies.

As you know, southern Oregon is much drier than the counties up north and we are always at risk of not having enough water. Maintaining the health of both the Little Applegate and other small rivers to prevent damagingly high temperatures, sediment, and overall degradation is essential to the continued growth of the robust agricultural economy in our area. The list in SB 3 of areas where in-stream mining is inappropriate altogether also is an encouraging step in protecting the water quality and quantity for agricultural uses.

Please send SB3 out of committee with a strong recommendation for passage.

Thank you for your time.

Priscilla Weaver
Jacksonville, Oregon