

3 February 2017

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

Subject: Comment urging "yes" vote on Senate Bill 3

Dear Sirs,

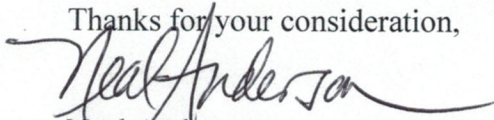
As a landowner and rural resident of Jackson County, Oregon, I urge the members of this committee to support passage of Senate Bill 3 concerning the moratorium on suction dredge and related types of in-stream mining activities. I believe a regulatory framework is necessary to protect our endangered water supplies.

Water and streams are a major concern for me and other people living in southwest Oregon. Since water is necessary for people and wildlife, water unites people. Many farmers here depend on clean water for their crops. The health of our streams is necessary to support the diverse wildlife that we find in the Klamath – Siskiyou area.

Dredging brings up sediment, which is not good for plants and animals that live in the streams (I think of how we humans fare in a sandstorm). Dredging can stir up sediments of naturally occurring minerals in concentrations that can be toxic to plants and animals living in and near streams; often these sediments are best left covered and undisturbed. In general only a very few people benefit from changing the flow of a stream in order to extract nuggets of minerals buried deep in a stream bed.

At the risk of stating something obvious, our counties in southern Oregon are much drier than those up north. Please work to protect the quality and quantity of our water. Please send SB3 out of committee with a strong recommendation for passage.

Thanks for your consideration,



Neal Anderson
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