

February 3, 2017

Ref. Senate Bill 3

Honorable Senator Dembrow and fellow committee members,

I am a fourth-generation Oregonian, born, raised and currently living in Grants Pass, near the Rogue River.

Since 1975 I have been employed in the Outdoor Recreation Industry. Beginning in the early 80's, I became a distributor salesman of Fishing, Camping, Marine and Shooting Sports merchandise throughout Southern Oregon and Northern California, and continue to do so today

I currently service 55 independent retail accounts in the region, and know firsthand the importance of healthy waterways and the fisheries they support. Our economy in Oregon is greatly enhanced by these activities. I feel very fortunate to have been able to support my family in such an exciting industry. I got into the industry because I have a passion for outdoor recreation, and have been pleased to pass that passion on my children and grandchildren.

It is with these facts in mind, that I ask that you support Senate Bill #3, to protect our most valuable salmon, steelhead and trout habitats.

SB 3 does not eliminate suction dredge mining, but rather is the result of much work and compromise, to bring about sensible regulation in order to protect much of what is so valuable to so many Oregonians. Being a fisherman and working in the fishing industry, I am well aware of the good and the bad, real or perceived, around regulation of people's activities. Fishing is one of the most highly regulated activities one can partake in. At the same time, I recognize the need for strict regulations, for the betterment of the larger good.

Please help us protect and enhance the economic drivers that the Outdoor Recreation Industry provides, by supporting SB #3. Current and future generations will value greatly from these protections.

Sincerely,

Dave Strahan
Territory Manager
Big Rock Sports