

February 6, 2017

Oregon Legislature
Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Re: SB 3, Suction-Dredge Mining
Sent via Email: senr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee,

I urge you to vote NO on SB 3.

My name is Jon Becker and I am a small-scale miner and owner of a Federal Mining Claim.

I have to wonder why you are bringing up another anti-mining bill. And then I think, well it is because SB838 didn't go far enough in stopping ALL mining of precious metals in the State of Oregon. The Army Corps of Engineers has consistently maintained that suction dredging has deminimus impact on fish and fish habitat. Suction dredging cannot be done except during Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in-water work times, when there is NO fish eggs or REDDS present.

Motorized suction dredging and small-scale mining is the only efficient and economical means of extracting valuable minerals from the stream bed. Suction dredging does not destroy fish habitat but improves it. There are several scientific studies proving this.

The hypocritical environmentalist who wear jewelry and use cell phones and computers, where do they think the gold, silver, copper and rare-earth metals comes from that goes into those things? Well, it has to be mined! Whether we mine it the USA or import it from other countries, it has to be mined! You can't grow it! If we have to rely on these valuable metals being imported you can rest assured that the cost of common items everyone uses today will cost more in the very near future.

Once again, I urge you to vote NO on SB 3. It is a bill that is not needed. It is designed to make Federal Mining Claim Owners criminals under State Law and it does nothing to enhance or promote the State economy.

Thank you.

Jon A. Becker
13230 SW 61st. Ave.
Portland, OR. 97219
503 734 8557
Jon_becker2000@yahoo.com