

Representative Clem  
Chair, House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
900 Court St. NE, H-478  
Salem, OR 97301

Representative McLain  
Vice Chair, House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
900 Court St. NE, H-376  
Salem, OR 97301

Representative Sprenger  
Vice-Chair House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
900 Court St. NE, H-388  
Salem, OR 97301

February 19, 2017

**RE: Robyn Janssen Testimony in Opposition to HB 2106**

Dear Chair Clem, Vice-Chair Sprenger and committee members,

My name is Robyn Janssen and I am a river guide from southern Oregon. I have been a guide for over 20 years in southwest Oregon, northwest California, Idaho, Arizona and beyond and I have seen the impacts that suction dredge mining has on our rivers, fish habitat, and the overall river environment.

**I would like to thank you for considering suction dredge reform in HB 2106 however, this bill does not go far enough to protect clean water and native fish and is not the appropriate legislative vehicle to reform suction dredge mining in Oregon's rivers.**

Being a river guide, I recognize the importance that mining has played on our culture, history and heritage. However, I also recognize that it has negative impacts on others, on endangered and sensitive species, and our river communities as a whole and should be limited to areas where impacts are minimal.

HB 2106 threatens clean water and the sensitive fish that the state of Oregon has spent millions on working to restore. The bill only includes two short provisions related to suction dredge mining which are narrow in scope and are less protective than current suction dredge mining reform legislation under SB 3. Additionally, the suction dredge mining provisions under HB 2106 have not had the benefit of years of discussion, review, and compromise with multiple stakeholders that SB3 has.

Specifically, HB 2106 would repeal the current moratorium on suction dredge mining which was a crucial component of SB 838 passed in 2013 and supported by the late Senator Alan Bates. HB 2106 also does not address mining in riparian areas along waterways which is included in SB3 to protect clean, clear water and healthy fish habitat.

A working group was established in 2013 around SB 838 to figure out how to allow for suction dredge mining in areas where it would not harm sensitive fish species and their habitat and to come up with some sort of compromise for the issue. Raft guides, miners, conservation groups, state agencies, law enforcement and more met monthly for 6 months to come together, discuss options and come to an

agreement. The moratorium is a result of that agreement not being reached in order to give our waterways and fish a break while we try to figure out a better way to protect these vital resources. SB 3 now represents the appropriate legislative vehicle that could see years of hard work and compromise come to fruition to protect our rivers from suction dredge mining.

In conclusion, HB 2106 does not go far enough to protect Oregon's rivers and streams from suction dredge mining and SB 3 does. I urge the committee to remove the provisions on suction dredge mining from the current bill and address them by using and supporting SB 3 as the appropriate legislative vehicle on suction dredge mining reform.

Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robyn Janssen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robyn Janssen  
River Guide, Momentum River Expeditions