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**Subject:** No on SB 1579  
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Minerals and metals are very important to national security. We cannot be dependent on other countries to provide us with strategic metals and minerals in times of conflict. There are not many sites in the world with strategic metals and minerals. Oregon is fortunate to have some of these strategic underground materials necessary to produce modern defensive and offensive items. These sources cannot always be discovered by flyovers. It takes a miner on the ground with equipment on the ground for discovery. Miners often do not make much money.

So, you can see that your proposed fees can have the result of putting Oregon miners out of business. And, can have the effect of reducing our national security. This Special Session is already running amok trying to get dollars out of small and large businesses. And, with SB 1579 you run the risk of being responsible for reducing our national security. That is a bad idea. Please vote NO on SB 1579.

Helen Scott  
Grants Pass

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