

15 March 2017

The Honorable Ted Ferrioli
Room Number S-323
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Senate Bill 3, Modifies area where moratorium on mining using motorized equipment applies.

Dear Senator Ferrioli,

My name is John Esch, a Native Oregonian. I am writing in Opposition to Senate Bill 3, "Modifies area where moratorium on mining using motorized equipment applies". I would like my comments be added to the Senate Bill 3 notes and go into the public record.

In 1993, I became curious in and joined a couple of gold mining associations in the field of mining, for the precious metal, gold. Over the years, I have purchased a couple thousands dollars of small pieces of mining equipment and placer mining claims.

Now, that I am retired United States Army, I thought of mining to help supplement my military retirement pay, but with the current DEQ and State permit restrictions, virtually no areas to mine, and the fear of loosing everything, I cannot pursue my interests if Senate Bill 3 shall pass.

Senate Bill 3, along with Senate Bill 838, will and has drastic economic repercussions for local businesses and establishments that support mining, i.e. gas stations, local hotels, restaurants, mining supply shops, and grocery stores. Small scale suction dredge mining adds between 15 – 30 MILLION DOLLARS to Oregon's economy.

I encourage you to vote NO on Senate Bill 3.

John F. Esch
7005 Homestead Lane
Monmouth, Oregon 97361
503-930-8249