



Senator Herman Baertschiger

Oregon State Capitol
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 17, 2013

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Legislation threatens property rights on Southern Oregon rivers

Salem, OR –Senator Herman Baertschiger (R-Grants Pass) testified on Monday before the Senate Environment and Natural Resources committee in opposition to SB 401 and SB 838. Senate Bill 401 would give the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department control of private property along certain waterways and SB 838 effectively outlaws dredge mining.

“I am concerned about the negative effects this bill will have on private property owners,” said Baertschiger. “

Baertschiger noted that seventy percent of the rivers affected by SB 401 are located in southern and southwestern Oregon; fifty percent in Josephine County alone. The real market value of the private property in Josephine and Jackson County affected by this bill is estimated to be around \$1.7 billion.

Baertschiger also spoke against SB 838, calling it a undeserved reaction to mining and an attack on jobs.

“Dredge mining can be conducted in a responsible way to protect the well-being of the river while giving individuals a way to pay the bills and put food on the table,” said Baertschiger. “Mother nature during the month of January alone does significant damage to the river. Dredge mining has little over-all effect compared to a major rain event.”

Baertschiger has served on several county boards and tasks forces. He and his wife have raised their two sons on a ranch west of Grants Pass. He is an avid hunter, fisherman and enjoys horseback riding and is a private pilot.

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