

State Representative  
Cliff Bentz  
House District 60

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CONTACT: Representative Cliff Bentz  
503-986-1460



## Hearing to be Held on Improved State Agency Communication

SALEM – On Tuesday, April 16, the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources will hold a public hearing and possible work session on House Bill 2841. This bill, Chief Co-Sponsored by Representatives Cliff Bentz (R-Ontario) and Gail Whitsett (R-Klamath Falls), requires Oregon state agencies, prior to adopting, amending, or repealing any rule pertaining to recreation or small scale mining, to consult with parties likely to be affected. It further directs agencies to consider “all available and relevant scientific studies” when making these determinations.

Rep. Bentz believes that state agencies must be more accountable to those affected by regulatory decisions. “The current regulatory process does not lend itself to participation and involvement,” Rep. Bentz remarked. “In many instances, agencies adopt rules, issue orders, and make determinations that significantly affect lives and activities in Eastern Oregon. This bill helps the process so that those determinations are made after consideration of relevant information and, hopefully, with input from those directly affected.”

“Small scale and recreational mining is important to Oregon’s economy. Regulatory standards should only be created after appropriate consultation and consideration of all issues.”

If his schedule permits, Rep. Bentz will testify before the committee in support of HB 2841. Those wanting to show their support for the bill should send a letter (via email) to the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee members and committee administrator. Those interested in expressing strong support for this bill should plan to appear before the committee on Tuesday. Rep. Bentz’s Salem office is able to assist in coordinating with the committee to ensure that your presence is expected; any questions should be directed to his Salem office at (503) 986-1460.

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900 Court St. NE, H-475 Salem, OR 97301  
[rep.cliffbentz@state.or.us](mailto:rep.cliffbentz@state.or.us) 503-986-1460