

WASHINGTON STATE SMALL SCALE MINERS ARE UNDER ATTACK

Once again the Washington State small scale miners are under attack by environmental activists that seek to shutdown motorized suction dredging. They were unsuccessful last year, but have introduced two new bills that will be heard on Tuesday January 17th at 10AM in the John O'Brien Building at the State capital in Olympia Washington. The hearings will be held in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee chaired by Representative Brian Blake. All miners that can make the trip are urged to arrive early (8 AM), be prepared to fill the seats at the hearing, and respect the hearing process. If you can't attend the hearing leave your comments on the bill at the sites shown below. Brief descriptions of the bills are shown below:

HB 1077

DIGEST – Enacts a regulatory system to protect fish habitat in streams and rivers and to protect the state from liability for failing to regulate motorized suction dredge mining.

Author: Representative Fitzgibbon

More info is available at:

<http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1077&Year=2017>

This proposed bill seeks to direct the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to revisit and rewrite the state's Gold and Fish Pamphlet so that motorized suction dredge mining is regulated or prohibited "*like other nearby states*" because "*our state's streams and rivers are targeted by people from across the country who seek to conduct motorized suction dredge mining in an unregulated jurisdiction.*"

(Translated by D.E. Petersen)

HB 1106

DIGEST – Requires the department of ecology to issue a national pollutant discharge elimination system general permit or a general permit, or both, that applies to small scale motorized mining.

Author: Representative Tarleton

More info is available at:

<http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1106&Year=2017>

This proposed bill seeks to direct the Washington State Department of Ecology to issue a separate permit from the Gold and Fish Pamphlet and/or the Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) to regulate "*the water pollution from small scale mineral prospecting*" activities.

(Translated by D.E. Petersen)