

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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April 11, 2011

The Honorable Senator Ted Gaines
State Capitol, Room 3056
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 657 (Gaines) Support Letter Suction Dredging

Dear Senator Gaines,

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors supports Senate Bill 657 (Gaines) pertaining to vacuum or suction dredge equipment.

The passage of SB 657 would be a boost to California's economy as it would repeal the prohibition on the use of vacuum or suction dredge equipment on our streams and rivers, and would reimburse dredgers for a portion of the permit fee revoked in August 2009 with the passage of SB 670, California's ban of suction dredging.

Suction dredging is a verifiable revenue generating industry. Prior to SB 670 thousands of miners relied on this vocation as their main or only source of income. The ban on suction dredging has only added to the sluggish economy in California.

Our Board would like to thank you for your efforts and the urgency you have placed on this bill.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Raymond J. Nutting, Chair
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
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bostwo@co.el-dorado.ca.us