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5 Ways to say NO to Seabed Mining and YES to SB 5145

Seabed mining is on the rise across the globe and could pose a real threat to ecosystem health and coastal businesses in Washington. Luckily, on January 12, State Senators Kevin Van De Wege and Christine Rolfes introduced [SB 5145](#) which would prohibit leases for seabed mining for hard minerals in state waters.

There are several ways to make your voice heard in support of SB 5145 to prevent seabed mining in Washington state waters. Take a look at the talking points below, including instructions about how to provide testimony (online and written) below.

Three Talking Points:

- 1) Seabed mining is an environmental disaster just waiting to happen.
- 2) It will hurt what I love about my coast: the crabbing industry, Tribal treaty rights, my beach vacation, surfing, razor clam harvest, my fishing trips.
- 3) I support SB 5145. Let's stop it before it starts.

Background:

- This is an opportunity to stop a potentially devastating industry before it starts. Seabed mining was banned in Oregon in 1991. I urge you to follow Oregon's example. It's too risky to have this damaging practice potentially open to new leases.
- We've explored an estimated 0.01% of the deep sea. History is fraught with hard lessons learned about destroying that which we don't know or understand. This issue emphasizes the need for us to take the precautionary approach, both in our state and as a global community.
- Seabed mining in the context of marine waters in the Washington region could harm already struggling coastal communities, violate tribal treaty rights and erode sovereignty, and disrupt myriad fishing and shellfish opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Please say no to seabed mining and yes to SB 5415.
- Given the present effects of rising ocean temperatures and acidification, nearshore marine waters and coastal communities along the Pacific do not need another threat. Seabed mining could add insult to injury. I applaud Senators Van De Wege and Rolfes for introducing SB 5415 so that Washington can head this threat off at the pass.
- This dangerous activity would jeopardize the health of culturally and economically important wildlife both on or near the seafloor, such as groundfish, halibut, and Dungeness crab, and wildlife higher in the water column, such as salmon and steelhead, tuna, forage fish, and marine mammals including the Southern Resident Killer Whales.
- Scientists are warning that the ecological impacts of seabed mining could be profound, including destruction of fragile and slow growing seafloor habitat and wildlife, increased noise, loss of biodiversity, light pollution, and smothering or toxicity from sediment plumes that amplify the damage out into larger parts of the ocean.
- On earth, we are finally somewhat successful at restoring some of the habitats we've ruined. But in the deep sea - we have no idea how to restore areas after they've been damaged from deep sea mining.
- Unsustainable and destructive mining practices on earth have had a devastating impact on the environment, ecosystems and human health. How will we even know what impacts result from mining thousands of meters below the ocean's surface?

Thank you!