

PETE CONATY & ASSOCIATES

GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Hello Dave,

I am very pleased to report that all of the anti-suction dredge mining language was removed from all trailer bills to the budget before they were voted on by the Legislature. Therefore, there will not be any changes in the current DFG regulations originating from the California legislature this year.

This would have not have been possible if it were not for the efforts of the Republican Leaders, Senator Dave Cogdill (Modesto) and Assemblyman Mike Villines (Fresno) and their very capable staffs. While they would have not have supported the anti-dredging language in the first place, they were highly motivated to prevent passage of the anti-dredging language because of the outpouring of over 800 letters from your supporters again, (just like last year's battle with AB 1032 (Wolk))

Besides delivering the letters to the Governor, I also delivered copies to the Cogdill and Villines offices so that they could see how strong our opposition was. This helped the Republicans in their very difficult negotiations with the Democrat leaders who control the process. I also delivered copies to the Democrat leaders, Assemblywoman Karen Bass (Los Angeles) and Senator Don Perata (Oakland) so they could see how much opposition there was to this bad legislation.

Please thank everyone who sent letters and emails to the Governor and the Legislature. We would not have been successful without their support.

We also need to thank all these Republican members; Assemblyman Doug La Malfa (Oroville) and Senator Sam Aanestad (Grass Valley) for their strong efforts on our behalf. Other legislators who worked on our behalf were Senator Dave Cox (Fair Oaks), Senator Dennis Hollingsworth (Temecula), Assemblyman Greg Aghazarian (Stockton) and Assemblyman Joel Anderson (San Diego County).

We were also helped by the lobbyists and representatives from Siskiyou County (and Supervisor Marsha Armstrong) and the Regional Council of Rural Counties.

We have now been successful for two years running in overcoming the attempts of anti-mining advocates with the California legislature. As you know, I have accumulated 23 years of contacts who are watching the Legislature for these kinds of maneuvers by our opponents. This use of budget a trailer bill as a means to advance anti-suction dredging efforts would not have been uncovered until too late without my network of contacts in the Legislature and the Administration. And we never would have succeeded in defeating the bad legislation without the incredible outpouring of support from your large team of supporters. Together, we make a great team; and it feels good to be on a winning team!

Believe me when I report that there is no other professional working with the California legislature who is focused upon preserving the interests of small-scale miners. If The New 49'ers were not looking after this, suction dredging in California would certainly have been shut down after this season. Our team was the only team working on this.

I believe our opponents will be back next year, so we must stay vigilant if we are to continue to fight off these attacks on such a wonderful and productive activity – which is such an important part of California's heritage.

Please pass on my acknowledgement to all your supporters for another job well done!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Canady". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.