

A BILL

To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to remove all Wild and Scenic river segments in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “River Liberation Act of 202X”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

- (1) on October 2, 2019, Senator Ron Wyden announced a statewide public process to collect nominations from residents of the State of Oregon for Oregon rivers to be designated as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System;
- (2) over a period of less than 90 days, only 2,200 of 4,200,000 residents of the State of Oregon submitted over 15,000 nominations of free-flowing stream segments for designation as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.
- (3) Small scale mining does nothing to harm community drinking water, recreation opportunities, and wildlife habitat;
- (4) the free-flowing streams of the State of Oregon are an unparalleled resource for the residents of the State of Oregon and all people of the United States. Thus, their mineral resources should not be withheld from the people.
- (5) the residents of the State of Oregon—
 - (A) are proud of and cherish the mining heritage of their state; and
 - (B) wish to expand the legacy of small scale artisan mining in rivers for the benefit of future generations of residents of the State of Oregon and people of the United States;
- (6) there are over 2,173 miles of streams currently included as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System;
- (7) existing and proposed components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System in the State of Oregon have typically targeted mineral rich streams and rural areas;
- (8) components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System in the State of Oregon have removed billions of dollars of minerals from the public domain, causing incalculable economic damage to rural communities;

SEC. 3. APPLICABLE LAW

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System that is administered by the Secretary of the Interior shall be subject to this Act

“(2) RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT.—If there is a conflict between the laws referred to in section 4, subpart (1) and this Act, the least restrictive provision shall control.

SEC. 4. REPEAL OF ALL WILD AND SCENIC DESIGNATIONS IN THE STATE OF OREGON

- (1) All Wild and Scenic designations in the State of Oregon are immediately repealed.