



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S SECOND SENATE DISTRICT

SENATOR MIKE MCGUIRE

MEDIA



RELEASE

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McGuire continues fight to support and protect the Smith River from strip mining

Sacramento, CA – Today, Senator Mike McGuire joined the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors, the Crescent City Council and hundreds of North Coast neighbors in support of a proposal that would remove and protect almost 100,000 acres from a targeted mineral extraction region.

The letter was sent to the Bureau of Land Management, which has proposed a five-year mineral moratorium of the area in southern Oregon while Congress considers legislation that would protect the 100,000 acres permanently.

Immediately after assuming office in January of this year, Senator McGuire authored a Senate resolution to support and protect the Smith River from strip-mining. In July, the State Senate and Assembly voted overwhelmingly to support Senate Joint Resolution 3, authored by Senator McGuire, which urged Congress and the President of the United States to ensure the state's premiere wild and scenic river would be protected from the devastating effects of a proposed strip-mining operation along the North Fork of the Smith River in southern Oregon, just over the California border.

“Strip mining in the Smith River watershed is simply unacceptable,” Senator McGuire said. “The Smith and the companion rivers included in this moratorium are extraordinary and of national significance and should be protected forever. Any future mining activities will unnecessarily put the people, wildlife and fisheries that rely on these rivers at risk and would create irreversible impacts to the entire watersheds of these streams.”

Earlier this year, the Panama-based Red Flat Nickel Corporation submitted a plan to drill up to 59 test mine shafts on 3,980 acres, which could allow for one of the largest nickel, cobalt and chromium mines in the Western United States. Any mining would have irreversible negative impacts to water supplies, the North Coast's economy and the environment in California's portion of the Smith River Watershed.

“I will continue to work tirelessly with Congressman Huffman, to protect our river, which is one of the premier salmon fisheries in the lower 48 states and the source of drinking water for tens of thousands of residents in Del Norte County,” said McGuire.