

Businesses in Commercial Fishing, Recreational Fishing, Tourism, Outdoor Recreation and Other Industries Call on Leaders to Prevent Seabed Mining in Washington



The letter below was drafted prior to the introduction of [SB 5145](#) and therefore does not mention the legislation directly. However, the nature of the ask is for leadership on the issue. [The letter will remain open](#) to allow for other businesses to sign on and the language will be edited to specifically address the legislation.

Dear Governor Inslee and Washington State Legislators:

We the undersigned businesses are writing to encourage you to prohibit seabed mining before this destructive practice emerges in Washington. Our marine environment supports thousands of jobs, diverse cultures, and robust recreational opportunities. Seabed mining would severely harm our coastal quality of life.

Around the world, interest in seabed mining is on the rise, and this threat may soon loom off our own shores. Just this August, the Florida-based Odyssey Marine Exploration company indicated it will continue to push a phosphate seabed mining project in Mexico's federal waters (Exclusive Economic Zone or EEZ) despite two permit rejections. Without appropriate protections in place, Washington is vulnerable to similarly persistent and well-financed efforts by mining corporations attracted to the mineral leasing opportunities the state currently offers.

Seabed mining - extracting gold, titanium, phosphorus and other minerals from the seafloor - would damage our coastal ecosystems and communities. Scraping and suction dredging of the seafloor will damage or destroy fragile but critical habitat, displacing or killing marine life and disrupting these important ecosystems. Marine mining operations generate large toxin-laced sediment plumes that negatively impact commercially and recreationally important fisheries, marine mammals, and kelp, and pose a significant threat to filter feeders, jeopardizing Washington's economically and culturally vital shellfish industry. Currents can carry these plumes long distances, threatening our estuaries, beaches, and tidepools.

Similar to the ban already in place in Oregon, seabed mining for hard minerals should be prohibited outright in Washington state waters given the importance of a healthy marine environment to our fisheries, wildlife, coastal communities, and regional economy. Please work with other decision-makers in our state to prevent seabed mining in Washington.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Cassinelli - Owner/Operator, Beacon Charters & RV Park – Ilwaco, WA

Jill Williams – Owner, Bebold Marketing – Olympia, WA

Danne Neill – Real Estate Broker, Broadway - Muljat Group – Bellingham, WA

Alexa Brown – Consultant, Caddisfly Consulting LLC – Westport, WA

Lee First – Owner, Clean Water First LLC – Cosmopolis, WA

Teri Wright – Owner, Clinical Informatics Consulting – Port Ludlow, WA

Kent & Irene Martin – Owners, Columbia River Commercial Fishing Business – Skamokawa, WA

Dale Beasley – President, Columbia River Crab Fisherman's Association – Ilwaco, WA

Gordon Philip Baldwin – Fellow Worker, Eating – Seattle, WA

Kurt Englund – President, Englund Marine Supply – Astoria, OR

Annika Fain – President, Fain Environmental – Bellingham, WA

Yuki Wilmerding – Owner, Fantasmagorical Emporium – Friday Harbor, WA

Robert Alverson – Executive Director, Fishing Vessel Owners Association – Seattle, WA

Butch Smith – President, Ilwaco Charter Association – Ilwaco, WA

Dana Rockstroh – Owner, Inc. – Friday Harbor, WA

Forest Shomer – Owner, Inside Passage Seeds – Port Townsend, WA

John Pendleton – Owner, John Pendleton Contracting – Port Ludlow, WA

Gitanjali Roloff – Farmer, Joon Farm – Friday Harbor, WA

Heather Mann – Executive Director, Midwater Trawlers Cooperative – Newport, OR

Gitanjali Roloff – Waitress, Mike's Cafe & Wine Bar – Lopez Island, WA
Susan Schneider – Management, Mike's Cafe and Wine Bar – Friday Harbor, WA
Paul Stasch – Owner, Orchard Springs – Olympia, WA
Andi Day – Executive Director, Pacific County Tourism Bureau – Seaview, WA
Dave Johnson – President, Puget Sound Anglers Ocean Chapter – Westport, WA
Larry McCarter – President, Recycling and Disposal Services, Inc. – Bellingham, WA
Joseph Greenley – Owner, Redfish Kayaks – Port Townsend, WA
Rebecca Mabardy – Owner, Seas the Day Traveling Oyster Bar LLC – Anacortes, WA
Erin Meyer – Director of Conservation Programs & Partnerships, Seattle Aquarium – Seattle, WA
Sue Joerger – Owner, Sue Joerger, LLC – Seattle, WA
Liz Schotman – Owner, Sunfish Solutions, LLC – Olympia, WA
Robert Whitener – CEO, The Whitener Group – Olympia, WA
Larry Thevik – President, Washington Dungeness Crab Fishermen's Association WDCFA – Ocean Shores, WA
Taylor Robertson – Marketing & Sales Director, Werner Paddles – Monroe, WA
Steve Westrick – Owner / President, Westport Charters – Westport, WA
Phil Anderson – Owner, Westport Seabirds – Westport, WA
Andy Mitby – President, Willapa Bay Gillnet Association – Grayland, WA
Mark Kidd – World Citizen, World Options – South Bend, WA
Johannes Ariens – Senior Advisor, LOGE Co. – Westport, WA
Tiffany Turner – CEO, Adrift Hospitality – Long Beach, WA