

Speaker Hanaway,

Senate Bill 36, as amended, now contains language regarding sand and gravel mining in Missouri streams. This language, if it were to become law, would significantly weaken the protections afforded Missouri's important fishery resources.

Specifically, the in-stream sand and gravel mining amendments in SB 36 eliminate the requirement to secure a permit for all in-stream mining operations that remove less than 333 fifteen-ton dump truck loads of sand and gravel per year. Unpermitted operations of this magnitude could cause permanent and substantial damage to vital fishery habitat.

It has been argued by proponents that this exemption is necessary for private mining operations on one's own property for personal use; however, **the personal use exemption already exists in current law.** As this irrefutable fact has been exposed, proponents have changed their tactics and now claim that there is a compelling need for Missouri landowners to have an unpermitted commercial mining operation in the backyard or in the back forty to get rid of unwanted sand and gravel. The fact is that many in-stream sand and gravel operations result in the loss of usable land adjacent to streams due to accelerated bank erosion

Hundreds of millions of dollars of annual economic activity in Missouri depend on the protection of our state's valuable fishery resources. We ask that you take action to see that the sand and gravel mining language in Senate Bill 36 does not become law in SB 36 or in any other bill.

Respectfully,

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