

# Oregon Citizens Lobby

*A growing statewide collaborative effort by citizens to promote legislative accountability.*

Oregon Citizens Lobby opposes HB 2202 for the following reasons.

This bill Prohibits conditional approval of mining permits for mining of tracts of land in Willamette Valley that are zoned for exclusive farm use and include five acres or more composed of Class I and Class II soils. Creates exceptions.

## **Personal Choice**

This bill infringes upon land owners rights. Class I and Class II soils are at times located in areas not conducive to farming. HB 2202 adds unnecessary regulation to existing law. The landowner in the Willamette Valley should not be burdened with further regulation upon landowners personal property. HB 2202 amounts to a taking of property via unneeded regulation.

## **Fiscal Responsibility**

Many rock mining operations in the Willamette Valley have been subjected to excessive regulation by well intentioned (or not) regulations. These regulations that are intended to protect the "Willamette River Green-way" and other desired rock and mineral rich locations often increase the production cost of rock mining due to added trucking and production costs at less desirable sites. Further restrictions such as HB 2202 will lead to increased costs of gravel and cement in road building and housing construction. HB 2202 will also lead to increased wear and tear on public roads.

## **Limited Government**

Oregon has many of the most restrictive mining rules in the country. Adding HB 2202 to this list of rules is simply another example of Government overreach and also seems to promulgate the perception that Oregon is not friendly to business, free enterprise and entrepreneurs.

## **Local Control**

HB 2202 appears to be an attempt supersede or add to existing land use rules by adding another restriction upon Oregon landowners who are already often hamstrung by the most oppressive land rules in the nation. County and city residents at the local level can already challenge existing land use. Local control should be the preferred source of whether or not a specific mining site contradicts local desires.

## **Free Markets**

HB2202 Restricts free markets by further limiting areas that can be mined. This will only drive up the cost rather than create honest competition. HB 2202 is another example of Oregon following the California model of over-regulating agriculture and mining. All wealth and prosperity are created by mining, farming, ranching, growing crops and logging. Extraction of natural resources drives everything we enjoy as a civil society. Further restriction of how one can utilize his own property is senseless, especially considering the regulations Oregon already has in place.

