

Land Use Committee,

Members am I writing in regard to HB2201 and HB2202. My name is Rick Epp I am a rancher in Douglas County and have seen the effects of poorly managed gravel mines in our County.

I support both Bills. HB2201 for reclamation of the top 8 feet of topsoil. HB2202 for prohibiting the aggregate mining of prime farmland.

Under 20% of EFU land is Class I and II soils and there are no viable alternatives of good farm ground.

The aggregate industry has vast alternatives to mining, instead of using Oregon's best farm land. It is estimated that Oregon is losing 200 – 400 acres of farmland annually to aggregate mining.

There is virtually an unlimited supply of hard quarry rock located away from our best farmland which exist all through the State that can be economically transported.

Oregon's family farms and ranches are 99% family owned contributing more than 15% of all economic activity in Oregon. While the Aggregate industry has 4 international companies controlling 90% of aggregate production.

Current reclamation standards are not working to protect farmland for future generations of farming.

I ask the Committee Members to please support these two Bills.

Thank you,

Rick Epp.