

February 26, 2013
House Land Use Committee

RE: "Yes" on HB 2201 and HB 2202

Dear Chair Clem and Members of the Committee:

I urge you to vote "Yes" on HB 2201. (**HB2201**, *Establishes conditions for approval of reclamation plan for surface mining operation on land zoned for exclusive farm use.*)

The reason is simple—If aggregate is to be extracted from EFU land, the land needs to be made usable for farming when the extraction is complete.

I urge you to vote "Yes" on HB 2202. (**HB2202**, *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.*)

I became concerned about aggregate mining in 1994 when Marion County attempted to create an aggregate overlay zone in our area near Cloverdale School near Turner. Over 100 residents of the area were shocked into action. We formed a group named Friends of Cloverdale. We learned more than we ever wanted to know about aggregate mines on farm land. (We were able to dissuade the county from creating the overlay zone by hiring a great attorney and testifying in droves.)

The Mid-Willamette Valley was blessed with fertile farm land. Unfortunately, way too much EFU land in this valley has been squandered for shopping malls, housing developments, truck parking lots, RV parks, and aggregate mines.

We cannot afford to lose more EFU, especially for aggregate which can be mined elsewhere without harming fertile land. We need food more than we need rock. It's that simple.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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