

February 25, 2013

Representative Clem
Chairman
House Land Use Committee
900 Court St NE H-284
Salem, Oregon 97301

House Bill 2202 Support

Dear Chairman Clem and Committee Members,

I am in support of HB 2202. Even though we are protected from mining on our high value farm land here in Central Oregon, I feel that the Willamette Valley's best farm land (class I & II soils) needs protected from mining. It is about what is good for agriculture as a whole.

Instead of hauling the mined rock by truck on I-5 to Portland think about what mining east of the Cascades could provide in way of jobs and the environmental impacts in the valley would be decreased by not using I-5. There is plenty of ground that has rock to mine outside of the Willamette Valley's class I & II soils.

I have always worked very hard to protect the limited farm land acreage in the North Unit Irrigation District from being destroyed by development. As we all know they aren't making anymore farm land in the Willamette Valley. More and more people are looking at farming even small acreages for CSA's and organic farming. There is a shortage of farm land and to think that Oregon is allowing over 200 acres a year of the very best farm land to be defaced by mining when there is rock elsewhere is just unbelievable. It is time to protect the very best farm land in the valley to the same protection that I have in Jefferson County.

I encourage you and the committee members to vote in support of House bill 2202.

Sincerely,

Mickey Killingsworth
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