



*Jefferson County Farm Bureau
798 SE Dover Lane
Madras, Oregon 97741*

February 22, 2013

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

House Bill 2201 (Reclamation) Support

The Honorable Chairman Clem,

The Jefferson County Farm Bureau is in support of HB 2201. Even though we are protected in Central Oregon from mining on our high value farm land, we feel that the Willamette Valley's best farm land (class I & II soils) needs protected as well. These soils are not being protected now. House bill 2201 would at least require that when mining occurs on class I & II soils in the Willamette Valley true reclamation will occur so the farm land could be farmed again.

Mining of the Willamette Valley's class I & II soils is *Oregon's ugly secret*. If Oregonians really saw and understood what today's "reclamation standards" are they would be shocked that this type of lawful scaring of one of Oregon's most precious resources is allowed without true reclamation to make the mining pits back into useable farm land.

The bottom line is that they aren't creating new farm land in the Willamette Valley made up of class I & II soils. Agriculture has changed, as has mining when Goal 5 was first adopted. It is time to have mining reclamation mean something and not just be open pits for decades. ***HB 2201 would be the start of putting back farm land so the scarce resource could be used for farming once again for the future of Oregonians.***

Sincerely,

Sue Vanek
President
Jefferson County Farm Bureau
798 S.E. Dover Lane
Madras, Oregon 97741
Cell 541/480/6200

Home of the North Unit Irrigation District