

Land Use Committee:

Brian Clem, Chair

Kevin Cameron, Vice-Chair

Lew Frederick, Vice-Chair

John Davis

Paul Holvey

Kim Thatcher

Ben Unger

Good afternoon everyone,

My name is Laurie Freeman Swanson. I am here to speak for the Molalla Citizen's Planning Organization in Clackamas County. We support both HB 2201 and 2202. I own a 250 acre farm that has been in my family for 91 years. I raise several crops as well as run a herd of beef cattle.

According to the GIS Agricultural Land analysis, there are 186,258 acres of producing farmland in Clackamas County. 15.48% of Clackamas County.

These bills address the sensitivity of maintaining our farmland. Right now, mining companies are able to leave a 100 acre productive farm field as a gutted 25-60 foot deep hole filled with water, often contaminated. The farm areas around the mine will be lucky if the wells and irrigation ditches also are not contaminated. Mining brings the possibility of dewatering wells and contaminating water that travels within the same Aquifer.

So far, we have been fortunate in the Willamette valley with the consequences of climate change. While many in the mid -west and southern states have been suffering major droughts, we have been able to continue to grow crops and increase production. We have been able to raise our cattle, sheep, and hogs without fear of low water levels, or lack of food. Moving our crops to Eastern Oregon obviously would be prohibitive on so many levels.....water, temperature, winter non growing weather, inability to offer a fresh product to major cities over the mountains to the west, to name a few.

Local farming direct delivery has grown immensely over the past 8-10 years. Portland alone does \$ 3 million and then some in local delivery to restaurants. Products also go into Washington local areas(Vancouver, Clark County) as well as our own Salem, Oregon City, Canby, Silverton, Newburg, McMinnville and on. Farmers Markets do 50-100 million dollars in business.

A few years back, a former Clackamas County Commissioner with her expertise being Transportation noted that there were enough permitted mines in Clackamas County to take us up through 2035.

Our valley is fertile....and the only area in the state where gravel mining is allowed on prime farmland. Mining takes farmland out of production forever. We cannot afford to continue with this model.

Thank you for taking this time to listen to me.

Laurie Freeman Swanson
Molalla CPO Board Member