



From the desk of
Representative Brian Clem

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Clem".

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OREGON FARM BUREAU REQUESTS YOUR SUPPORT OF HB 2202

The Oregon Farm Bureau urges the support of HB 2202 which bridges a gap between land use law and mining law as it pertains to aggregate mining within the Willamette Valley. Oregon farmers continue to feel the pressures of a shrinking agriculture land base. To help address this issue, the Oregon Farm Bureau and the Oregon Concrete and Aggregate Producers Association have agreed on language that is aimed at limiting the footprint of aggregate mining in the Willamette Valley without limiting mine production by promoting deeper mines.

Today, in the Willamette Valley mine operations must meet certain threshold requirements before receiving a mining permit. In particular, land use laws require that mine operators demonstrate that a significant aggregate resource exists before a mine permit is issued. This significance test is, in part, determined by an average thickness of aggregate within a mining site.

Unfortunately, mining permits do not require that the entire resource be mined. This bill will address that issue by tying the land use thickness standard already in rule to the mining permit requirements. Ultimately, increasing aggregate production on open aggregate mine sites and limiting new mine operations on high value farmland.

Specifically, HB 2202 amends current mining law in the following ways:

- Requires that mine operators demonstrate the mechanical ability to mine to the depth as set forth in Goal 5 land use rules.
- Mandates that DOGAMI authorize mining to the significance depth in each mining permit, unless otherwise prohibited by law.
- Prohibits mine closure until the mine extracts the depth of aggregate authorized under the permit. □

Passing this bill will assist in preserving valuable farmland from development, at the same time, allow for aggregate production.