

Written Testimony for SB 248

Mining in Oregon creates both important public benefits and at times deep public concerns. The vast majority of mining sites in this state are aggregate mines. Aggregate is the main ingredient in concrete and asphalt pavement and is used as a base on which roads and buildings are placed. Other important uses include gravel roads, dams, landscaping, drainage control, landfills, mortar, sanding icy roads, and railroad ballast. *Total annual aggregate production in Oregon is approximately 52,000,000 cubic yards.* There is also significant diatomaceous earth production, an industrial mineral with a variety of commercial uses.

Concrete is the single most widely used building material in the world.

There are nearly 3 tons of concrete produced each year for every human on the planet. It is used to build schools, roads, dams, foundations, bridges, tunnels, hospitals, parking lots, apartment buildings, homes, runways, sanitation systems, and hospitals. It can be cast into most any shape, and used for structural, surface, or decorative purposes. Cost-effective life-cycle costs, strength, and longevity make it a prime material choice.

There are not many structures without some cement-based building product in them. Most all construction creates jobs supported in some degree by concrete. **In fact, construction jobs in the United States represent approximately 6% of employment or around 9 million jobs.**

This is where the state of Oregon is over-regulating the sand and gravel industry.

This is already being regulated by Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) they already regulate all mining within the state.

The state forester has no real world Experience in regulating gravel pits mining within the state of Oregon, state foresters have academic degree in forest management which in no way would work for mining engineering degree.

Please make this Written Testimony part of the public record

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