

Trant Lindsay

From: Joel Narva <joelnarva@earthlink.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 9:40 AM
To: Rep Clem; Rep Gilliam; Rep Gomberg; Rep Helm; Rep Post; Rep Witt; Rep McLane; Davidson Ian; Trant Lindsay
Cc: Rep Nathanson
Subject: House Bill 2666

April 15, 2015

Dear Members of the House Committee On Rural Communities, Land Use, and Water,

It is unfortunate that some profitable sand and gravel resources reside naturally below valuable farmland in Oregon. Our current laws protect farmland when sand and gravel extraction processes would harm that farmland.

Sand and gravel extraction, and farming are both important industries for our communities and our state. Both industries add jobs to our state, and help us grow. A key difference, however, is when one considers the long range health of our citizens and our economy.

Once sand and gravel is extracted from a given site, that land's use is greatly diminished. When we farm good soils, we can produce good food for our citizens and for export, *into perpetuity*. In the long run, both the health of our citizens and our economy benefits more from good farms.

There are other sources of gravel besides those that are easy to reach below our prime farmlands. The value of the short term increase of profits for the mining industry, is outweighed in the long run by the detriment of losing farmland. Oregon has outstanding farmland, and once we destroy it we lose it forever.

House Bill 2666 is a one-sided bill, whose sole purpose to weaken protection of farmland for the purpose of sand and gravel mining. Please consider what our great state will be like 10, 20, 30 years and more from now. Our priorities today dictate the state of our state in the future. Please oppose House Bill 2666.

Thank you,

Joel Narva
Lane County, Oregon