

## Trant Lindsay

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**From:** Law Office of Ryan Howard <[ryan@ryanhowardlaw.com](mailto:ryan@ryanhowardlaw.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2015 10:33 AM  
**To:** Trant Lindsay  
**Subject:** HB 2666

Dear chair and committee members,

As an attorney and former city council member in Newberg, I have been very concerned by the rate at which our prized Oregon farmland is being covered up or destroyed. This is not a new problem but a problem against which we should remain vigilant. This means we must both protect our current laws in place to limit urban growth onto farmland, and resist new laws enabling or encouraging harmful development such as aggregate mining.

The thing that makes our farmland so valuable is the layer of topsoil laid down over tens of thousands of years. Once this layer is removed or destroyed, we are left with river rocks and stones that more useful for decoration and landscaping than for farming. This is not a practice that should be encouraged and even when it is allowed we must maintain strict oversight of the potential harms that may result both to the land and to neighboring landowners.

Please do not neglect your duty to look after the land that we have inherited for generations by granting those who wish to tear it up a easier pathway to do so.

Sincerely  
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