

Trant Lindsay

From: Brian Hines <brianhines1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 11:25 AM
To: Trant Lindsay
Subject: Opposed to HB 2666

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

I urge you to reject HB 2666. Does Oregon really face a serious gravel shortage that requires the destruction of irreplaceable farmland? Is this the only place remaining to obtain aggregate materials? I've seen no evidence that the answer to these questions is "yes."

My opposition to HB 2666 stems in part from our rural neighborhood's lengthy fight against a subdivision that was planned to be built on high value farmland following the passage of Measure 37. In the course of working to protect our limited groundwater and surface water, I learned a lot about how important it is to save farmland from development.

Like gravel mines, there are alternatives to putting subdivisions on or near high value farmland. Oregon's successful land use system recognizes that once farmland is made unsuitable for growing crops, it can never be used again for its highest purpose.

Please vote "no" on HB 2666. Future generations, as well as Oregonians today, will be thankful to you.

I'll end by saying that currently the farmland my neighborhood saved from being paved over is listed for sale as vineyard property. The owner still will be able to enjoy a healthy profit from his acreage; our wells and community lake won't be at risk of drying up; the land will be used for its highest and best use, growing grapes.

This testifies to the importance of not weakening Oregon's land use laws in the name of illusory short-term economic gain.

Sincerely,

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