

## Trant Lindsay

---

**From:** Davidson Ian  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2015 8:28 AM  
**To:** Trant Lindsay  
**Subject:** FW: HB2666

---

**From:** Oakhill Organics [<mailto:farm@oakhillorganics.com>]

**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2015 8:13 AM

**To:** Davidson Ian

**Subject:** HB2666

Dear Chair Clem & committee members,

My husband and I operate a one hundred acre farm here in Oregon. We are blessed to be farming some of the best farmland in the world, on a small agricultural island north of Salem called Grand Island. Thanks to well drained soils and access to good clean irrigation water, we are able to produce a diversity of crops and products — all of which we sell directly to our customers here in Yamhill County. We observe a marked difference in our farming experience compared to that of our neighbors off the island — even just up on the valley floor across the bridge, drainage and water limitations issues abound.

Unfortunately the same well drained soil that makes for prime farmland conditions also attracts the gravel industry to our island. We already have three approved quarry sites on our small agricultural island. In 2010, my husband and I — along with hundreds of other citizens and farmers — contributed extensive effort into communicating our concerns about the most recent aggregate-related zoning change application. In spite of our testimony and evidence, our county commissioners still approved the zoning change.

To us, the potential loss of *prime* farmland seems like a major concern for Oregon, which is at its cultural heart and economic base an agricultural state. As California's drought continues to worsen, Oregon's agricultural economy is poised to grow even stronger. Farmers are already anticipating that the loss of farmland opportunities in California will make farmland in Oregon significantly more valuable and expensive. Farmland represents a precious renewable resource for Oregonians — and the value of that resource warrants the continued option of a real, conversation PROCESS before zoning changes can occur that will destroy Oregon's farmland forever. HB2666 limits that process in a way that would hurt Oregon's future. Thank you for not letting this bill out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Katie Kulla

\*\*\* Oakhill Organics \*\*\*

[farm@oakhillorganics.com](mailto:farm@oakhillorganics.com)

[www.oakhillorganics.com](http://www.oakhillorganics.com)