

April 15, 2015

House Committee On Rural Communities, Land Use, and Water

RE: HB2666

Chairman Rep. Clem, and Members of the House Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use, and Water,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in opposition of this bill.

In a permitting process that already favors aggregate, HB2166 will further tip the scales against agriculture. HB2166 would negate any protection of EFU lands.


The very consideration of allowing a threshold of only 1500 feet of the perimeter of the mining area as the "surrounding lands" in itself would be enough to limit any objections to significant adverse effects. In the majority of mining operations that area is part of the subject parcel.

Limiting significant adverse effects to only those farming practices which are taking place at the time of the application and having to show that those farm practices would either have to be abandoned or that they would become economically infeasible would make it okay for a mining operation to drastically cut a farmer's profits as long as it didn't totally put him out of business.

Criteria that a mining permit only comply with applicable federal, state, and local environmental and ODOT standards does nothing to protect neighboring farmers that contribute to the agricultural economy of the state.

The fact that HB2666 has surfaced in the 2015 session shows that those in the aggregate mining business are not interested in any compromise with agriculture. They want everything their way without regard for anyone else! I urge you not to move this bill forward. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



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