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April 16, 2015

Helping to shape the use of our natural resources to protect the quality of life in Yamhill County.

House Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use and Water
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2666

Dear Chair Clem and Committee members:

Friends of Yamhill County (FYC) works to protect natural resources through the implementation of land use planning goals, policies, and laws that maintain and improve the present and future quality of life in Yamhill County. Our members include farmers, foresters, vintners, and many other urban and rural residents. We strongly oppose HB 2666, including the -1 amendments.

Agriculture is a key engine of our economy, both here in Yamhill County, and throughout the state. We cannot exist without farmland, and every diminution of farmland diminishes this key economic engine.

Here in Yamhill County the aggregate industry runs rough shod over our very best farmland with woefully inadequate checks. Despite the current standards in in ORS 215.296 virtually all aggregate applications are approved here regardless of the impacts to nearby farmers.

Both the introduced version of the bill and the -1 amendments would further stack the deck against farmers who are already at a disadvantage when opposing non-farm uses in EFU zones.

Please vote NO vote on HB 2666

Sincerely,

Sid Friedman
Friends of Yamhill County