



*Jefferson County Farm Bureau  
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April 15, 2015

Representative Clem  
Chairman  
House Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use and Water  
900 Court St NE H-284  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**House Bill 2666 and Dash 1 amendments Oppose**

The Honorable Chairman Clem and Committee Members,

The Jefferson County Farm Bureau is opposing **HB 2666 and the dash 1 amendments**. A lot of testimony will be heard by this committee from the aggregate companies looking at their pocket books and telling you how this bill is needed. Our county farm bureau has worked with you, Chairman Clem, for several years on trying to get something done to give added protection to the agricultural lands in the valley and those farming operations that have to bear the impacts of mining next to their farms. In our many discussions we always point out that Central Oregon has more protection when it comes to aggregate mining than the best soils in the valley. **As you know outside the Willamette Valley class 1 and 2 soils are protected from aggregate mining!**

We think that a workgroup should be focusing on ways to use the quarry rock that is plentiful in Central and Eastern Oregon. House bill 3090 is a start. House bill 2666 and the dash 1 amendments are not what Oregonians want to happen in Oregon.

Our county farm bureau helped develop the farm bureau policy on aggregate siting (3.700 page 35 of Oregon Farm Bureau policy book). Rep. Clem has heard our story many times that quarry rock east of the Cascades should be used and will help support the rural economies from local quarries and not foreign conglomerates. It would be a win-win to protect the last of the valley floor farm ground that cannot be replaced and use a natural resource that is plentiful east of the Cascades.

*The larger question is what will it take to make everyone realize that there isn't any place to get this type of farm ground and this is just another consumptive use of irreplaceable farm land that can go somewhere else.*

Sincerely,

Sue Vanek  
President  
Cell 541/480/6200

*Home of the North Unit Irrigation District*