

April 16, 2015

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

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

The Honorable Chairman Clem and Committee Members,

I am Mickey Killingsworth, I live in Central Oregon and I am opposing **HB 2666 and 2666- 1 amendments**.

I am befuddled as to why there is a work group and this bill has traction! During the 2013 Legislative session working with you, Chairman Clem, those of us involved from agriculture with the aggregate issue were told to not come back for several sessions. In the 2014 session Mr. Angstrom, representing his clients (Oregon Concrete & Aggregate Producers Association) was again introducing aggregate legislation and here he is in the 2015 session.

Agriculture and Aggregate always seem to wind up in a work group in hopes that something good can come out of the time spent. Usually, at least in the past agriculture felt that aggregate was a bully and could never understand **why those class 1 and 2 soils need protected...to a farmer every bit of soil is precious and the future...it isn't just dirt.**

In all reality agriculture wants protection so they can continue to be farmers and the aggregate industry, in my eyes as a farmer, wants to rape the precious valley class 1 and 2 soils for the most financial gain that they can achieve, and have agriculture sit back and allow it to happen until there is nothing left to defend. Agriculture will put up a good fight when put in a corner, which is what House Bill 2666 and 2666-1 is doing.

Most of the time all that farmers want to do is farm and take care of the land to pass it on to future generations. Goal 3 and Goal 5 were never meant to compete against each other. That is why Goal 5 has protection for farmland in the goal. There wasn't this constant conflict when aggregate could mine the river bars and river beds. **There is a solution... mine quarry rock in Central and Eastern Oregon...there is plenty of rock where I live or go to quarrying basalt from the hills in the valley.**

I always ask myself "what is behind proposed legislation?", and in this case all that I can find out is because the farmers won a case in the Eugene/Springfield area that stopped an aggregate mine from being sited. The system worked, so now Mr. Angstrom needs the law to change for his clients.

Look to the many benefits from agriculture, not only feeding the non-farmers, but providing green-space and habitat, etc... for future generations. We need every bit of agriculture especially the class 1 and 2 soils in the Willamette Valley where the growth pressures are the highest in taking farm-ground out of production for many uses.

Please do not move this bill to another committee, if need be just continue the work group, but look at expanding the participants to include agencies like Oregon Department of Agriculture and those in the DLCD report to Rep. Davis dated April 15, 2013 that Mr. Angstrom submitted for the record .

Sincerely,

Mickey Killingsworth
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