

The Association of Oregon Counties Supports HB 2666-1

The Association of Oregon Counties support HB 2666-1. The bill addresses concerns around two industries, agriculture and aggregate, where counties often find themselves between when it comes to land use decisions. AOC believes that the current process is lengthy and costly to administer. HB 2666-1 makes some important steps in addressing some of the problems:

- The bill leaves in local hands the ability to resolve the conflicts between the two industries, aggregate and agriculture.
- The bill requires farmers provide some level of objective evidence to support their complaints
- The local government will sift through these presentations of conflicts and move the issues forward for resolution in the process.
- The local government then will require the miner to demonstrate that he can avoid the conflict or with conditions minimize the conflict.

These new steps should reduce the costs associated with permitting a mine site for both the miner and the local government while still giving the agricultural community an opportunity to voice their objections to mining in their community.

AOC supports HB 2666-1 and urges a “yes” vote. For any questions on AOC’s position, please contact Policy Manager Mark Nystrom (mnystrom@aocweb.org).