

Jerome Ross ~~_____~~

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Oregon Cattlemen's Association supports HB 2666. Private real property and the resources contained on that property are to be available for the owner to use personally or sell on the open market. Any other approach involving a limiting or costly regulatory regime would be considered a possible taking.

HB 2666 provides a fair and common sense process to resolving landowner conflicts created when a mining site is proposed and in the process of accessing mineral resources on neighboring land. With over 9 Million acres reported to be in cattle production it is easy to realize that there would be an interest in mining on some of these acres. Many cattle producers are interested in diversifying their natural resource operations by developing and harvesting timber and mineral resources in Oregon. It is also easy to realize that cattle producers experience an economic advantage through the development of a mining resource on their property which could give them the opportunity to expand their cattle and farming operations and bring more value to their land and operation. For example the lease rates for farmable land in the Willamette Valley is around \$245/acre whereas a mineral site development on the same property could bring as much as \$40,000/acre.

HB 2666 will help resolve some past conflicts that developed between farming operations and proposed plans for mineral mining operations. HB 2666 defines a process for local governments to follow that is intended to resolve conflicts between landowners/farmers/ranchers that may be impacted by a mine operation. There has needed to be a better process to provide a clear and objective path for resolving these conflicts and this legislation improves that process.

In eastern Oregon this will help provide much needed family wage earner jobs.