

**Molalla Community Planning Organization  
14400 S. Macksburg Road  
Molalla, OR 97038  
April 16, 2015**

Rural Communities, Land Use and Water Committee  
State of Oregon  
Oregon State Capitol Building  
9800 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2666

Members of the Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use and Water:

The Molalla Community Planning Organization (CPO) opposes House Bill 2666 and urges that it not be passed out of committee. This bill would allow special standards for aggregate mining for determining if they conflict with agricultural practices and undo forty plus years of land use planning.

The Molalla CPO has been designated by the state and Clackamas County to represent citizens in matters of land use. The CPO has consistently taken positions against the mining, crushing, and stockpiling of aggregate on EFU type 1 & 2 soils, special soils lands and along the Molalla River.

Granting of mining applications on type 1 and 2 and special soils condemns farmland to extinction. After digging a 60 foot hole encompassing a 100 acre field and extracting gravels, it will no longer be able to return to farmland. What remains is a 100 acre lake 60 feet deep. With the loss of land also goes loss of jobs. Never to return.

Right now, we not only see a decrease of Type 1 and 2 soils due to mining, but aggregate mining creates problems for adjacent farms and ranches. Mining related dust is harmful to farm crops and animals; the associated noise is a concern for chicken production as well as horses and other farm animals.

Wet mining also brings the high possibility of water draw down and/or contamination of surrounding irrigation ditches, wells, aquifers and waterways

As with many areas of the country, the Willamette Valley is enjoying significant growth in supplying local produce and naturally fed cattle, pork, lamb, and poultry to surrounding urban areas. Economy and reduced fuel costs make sourcing to local farms a productive business model.

The Willamette Valley is the only area in Oregon where mining is allowed on our special soils. We are against one industry destroying another when there are many alternatives. By working together, we can have two strong industries rather than the extinction of one over the other.

The Molalla CPO feels that passage of HB 2666 will decrease protections for farmland. Please reject HB2666.

Thank You,

**Molalla Community Planning Organization**

**Jan Courtain, President**

**Bill Taylor, Vice President**

**Fran Taylor, Secretary**

**Board Members:**    Tony Brooks  
                             Laurie Freeman Swanson  
                             Jim Gilbert