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## HB 2666

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The lobby for a multinational industry has successfully worked the Legislature and the subsequent rule making process to grant them de facto eminent domain over farmland zoning. When they complete a zoning conversion the potential windfall profit is in the 10's of millions of dollars. Thus the power to lobby, make political contributions, and represent themselves at the all important rule making. Now having got near absolute power over zoning, they want the same thing for the application process.

Having been thru this process, I can say it is a very lopsided affair already. On the one side you have an industry that has decades of experience, both with the legal process, and with dealing with local citizens, who have no idea what is going on. By the time people understand what the real issues are, they have already been shut out of the process. I will give you a few examples of what happened on Grand Island.

1. The Baker Rock application had a large complex study on flooding, and pit capture. Only after public comment is over does it become clear that they did not look at the fact that the wing dam, built by the Corps of Engineers, to close off the river channel that ran right thru the proposed mine site, has failed completely, and has largely done so after the last major high water in 1997.

2. A application in 2004, had a "average trips per day" condition on it, only in Baker Rocks process in 2010 was it stated that the "average" for the 2004 cite would be figured on a yearly base, and thus make the condition worthless.

3. DSL and the State Land Board decided some things about dividing up some land that:

a. was done in a way that made it extremely difficult for any citizen to understand by looking at the results of a Public Records Search.

b. may well not have followed the law as to the difference between man made changes, and naturally occurring changes.

This is just the tip of the ice burg, as to the odd way things are playing out on Grand Island, the more you look, the more there is to see.

In conclusion, I would ask you to not approve anymore efforts to undermine Goal 1, But have a group look in depth at what has happened on Grand Island and report back to the Legislature next ~~year~~ on how the current laws work in the real world. Thanks Neil Svarverud

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