

**From:** Pamela Burry  
**To:** [Sen.MichaelDembrow@state.or.us](mailto:Sen.MichaelDembrow@state.or.us); [Sen.AlanOlsen@state.or.us](mailto:Sen.AlanOlsen@state.or.us); [Sen.HermanBaertschiger@state.or.us](mailto:Sen.HermanBaertschiger@state.or.us); [Sen Roblan](#); [Raszka Shelley](#); [SENR Exhibits](#); [Patrino Beth](#)  
**Subject:** No on Senate Bill 644  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 28, 2017 1:42:13 PM

---

Dear Chair Dembrow and all members of the Oregon Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

As a resident of Eastern Oregon, I understand that surface mining is already allowed in and around the rural town where I live. What I do not understand is that House Bill 644 would essentially eliminate the need to secure a conditional use permit which would take away the monitoring that is usually required by locally elected officials.

We need county officials to review all such mining applications. Only the locally elected can have a good sense of all the complexities involved in the county in question. What harm could such mining do to local farms and ranches? What is locally required to keep these mines safe? What are the possible conflicts with existing and long-standing (often family run) agricultural and nonagricultural businesses? Where are the creeks and irrigation canals, and how might they be effected?

One must be local to understand these prospects. Rural farming and ranching are far more complicated, intermixed and broad-reaching for the community than you might think. Rural businesses and rural way of life often slip through the cracks of state politics. Please do not take these decisions out of local hands.

Please: say NO TO SB644.

Pamela Burry  
37629 Woods Lane  
Richland, Oregon  
97870