

To: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Sen.MichaelDembrow@state.or.us; Sen.AlanOlsen@state.or.us;
Sen.HermanBaertschiger@state.or.us; Sen
Roblan; Raszka Shelley; SENR Exhibits; Patrino Beth

From: Aileen Kaye; 10095 Parrish Gap Rd., SE; Turner, OR 97392 503-743-4567

Date: 3-29-17

Re: **“No” on SB 644**—Allowing aggregate mining on farmland as an outright use.

Dear Senator Dembrow and members of the Committee,

I live on EFU land because I have horses. EFU land is under attack every legislative session. We who have horses need farmland for hay, grazing, pasture, and riding. Every year we lose farmland in Oregon. We cannot afford to lose any more.

Aggregate mining is one of the most destructive uses of farmland. Once land is mined, it CANNOT be used as farmland again. Eastern Oregon has very productive farmland. Please see this paragraph from Wikipedia which explains why we should NOT allow aggregate mining on these special lands.

Economy

The region's economy is primarily [agricultural](#).^[11] [Timber](#) and [mining](#), while formerly key industries, have decreased in importance in recent years.^[12] [Cultural tourism](#), [agritourism](#) and [ecotourism](#) continue to develop.^{[13][14]} The [wheat](#) growing region of Eastern Oregon includes the [Columbia Plateau](#) portion of northeastern Oregon, which begins with very marginal wheat fields in central Wasco County and extends east through Umatilla County. Its rich [loess](#) soils "help make the Columbia Plateau one of the premier wheat-producing regions in the world."^[15] South of the wheat lands of northeast Oregon, agricultural activity is generally limited to livestock grazing except where irrigation is available. [Irrigated](#) areas are often used to produce [alfalfa](#) hay.

I urge you to vote “NO” on this bill.

Thank you for your concern.

Aileen Kaye