



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Land Conservation and Development
Oregon Department of Agriculture
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

June 26, 2017

To: Senator Ginny Burdick, Chair, Senate Rules Committee

From: Department of Land Conservation and Development, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Re: Senate Bill 644

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information and analysis on Senate Bill 644 as introduced and with the -6 amendments recently shared. Our agencies remain concerned about the latest proposed amendments to SB 644, since they go beyond process streamlining and seek to change/waive/drop land use and other standards and criteria, particularly with respect to wildlife, sage grouse, and farmland protection. As drafted, the -6 amendments to SB 644 provide no apparent required consideration of the impacts to agriculture.

The -6 amendments require the counties to deny an application if the use conflicts with administrative rules related to sage-grouse, although we have questions about how the language would be applied and implemented. It is important that a streamlined permit process incorporate all of Oregon's sage grouse program and standards. Oregon's sage grouse program has as its foundation Oregon's land use planning system, on which LCDC's sage grouse rules and ODFW's sage grouse rules were built. LCDC and ODFW sage grouse rules are implemented locally with state oversight.

Our agencies are open to working on amendments that would apply local, state and federal land use, natural resource and other standards and criteria through a consolidated or streamlined mining permit process. We are very concerned that casual amendments to the consolidated permit process needs comprehensive legal review to avoid unforeseen consequences that might impede future permitting. In addition, we believe stakeholder engagement is essential to understanding process change benefits and consequences, and would encourage including additional stakeholders in the discussion.

Sincerely,

Carrie MacLaren, Deputy Director
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Development

Lisa Hanson, Deputy Director
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Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director
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