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February 13, 2018

Joint Committee on Transportation
State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Land Use and Aggregate Siting

Co-Chairs Beyer and McKeown and Members of the Joint Committee:

We understand the committee may be discussing issues relating to land use and the siting of aggregate mines in tomorrow's hearing. We have concerns about the concept of making changes to the aggregate siting process that occurs at the county level through the land use system. The local land use process ensures that local governments can hear from interested and impacted residents and landowners and evaluate localized impacts of proposed uses on their community. Aggregate mines provide important economic benefits to communities but also frequently have impacts on surrounding land uses such as farming. To ensure that these impacts are considered and adequately mitigated it is important to maintain the integrity of both the the local land use processes in the context of aggregate mining. We also have concerns about the use of a transportation-related bill to address land use issues.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Meriel L. Darzen".

Meriel L. Darzen
Circuit Rider Staff Attorney