

**From:** Christian Richmond  
**To:** [JCT Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** HB 4060  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 20, 2018 10:55:43 AM

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Co-Chairs Beyer and McKeown and Members of the Committee,

I am a farmer and I urge you to oppose the -7 amendments to HB 4060. The proposed amendments would eliminate the ability of the county to address specific air, water, noise or other environmental impacts of an aggregate mine on neighboring landowners as long as the mine complies with other environmental laws.

This change would eliminate the ability of a farmer to raise specific impacts of the mine to their farming operation and have a mine's approval conditioned to avoid those impacts. The county permit is the only permit that specifically addresses impacts to neighboring farms. The state and federal process look at impacts to public resources and are designed to ensure that aggregate operations will not exceed a threshold allowed under law. On the other hand, the local process looks at localized impacts to neighbors and the compatibility of the use with neighboring farm operations. None of the state or federal permits look at impacts to existing farm operations or analyze dust, noise or water quality impacts in relation to neighboring farm operations.

As farmers, we also have to navigate a web of complex environmental laws, so I understand the desire for a streamlined permitting process. However, the solution proposed by this amendment eliminates the ability of farmers like myself to address legitimate concerns and impacts to our farming operations. With commodity prices low, many farmers in Oregon are already struggling to maintain the viability of our operations. We should not have to shoulder the burden of a new mine moving in next door without any conditions in place to protect our operations.

I also do not believe that the land use permitting process is stopping mines from siting in Oregon. I understand that data from DLCD shows that local land use approval is not a barrier to siting these projects and there is a 97% success rate for siting aggregate projects within farm zones.

The proposed -7 amendment would limit my ability to have impacts to my farm addressed as new mines are sited near me.

I believe that the current balance struck for aggregate operations on farm zones is effective, and any changes to the process at this juncture could pose an undue burden on neighboring farm operations. I urge you not to adopt this amendment. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christian Richmond  
Star Mooring Farm