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Via Electronic Mail

To: House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use; **Senator:** Thatcher; **Representatives:** Noble;
[and many others]

Re: [HB 2573]-Leave cranberry farm land as "High-Valued Farm Land!"

[HB 2573]: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2573/Introduced>
Analysis: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Downloads/MeasureAnalysisDocument/42536>

[HB 2503]: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2503/Introduced>
Analysis: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Downloads/MeasureAnalysisDocument/42028>

[HB 2003]: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2003/Introduced>
Analysis: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Downloads/MeasureAnalysisDocument/44055>

[HB 2437]: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2437/Introduced>
Analysis: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Downloads/MeasureAnalysisDocument/42403>

[HB 2796]: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2796/Introduced>
Analysis: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Downloads/MeasureAnalysisDocument/43687>

[HB 2438]: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2438/Introduced>
Analysis: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Downloads/MeasureAnalysisDocument/42404>

[HB 2573] "removing cranberry farms from high-valued farmland" is yet another fool-hardy attack on Oregon's agricultural economy. Do not be swayed by the velvety whoring tongues of economic developers.

Cranberries are a unique and very valuable food source commodity to Oregon's agricultural economy and should be protected. Cranberry plants take time to propagate and still more time to reach full production capacity for harvest and market.

Draining and clearing out cranberry bogs destroys this high-valued crop grown on high-valued farm land is contraindicated for the health and vibrancy of Oregon's agricultural economy. Plus, there will be more headaches concerning "draining" due to [HB 2437], [HB 2796] and [HB 2438].

I know times are tough for the cranberry farms but allowing these bogs to be drained for economic development such as housing and ancillary commercial activities is unacceptable. By down-grading cranberry farms from high-valued farm land opens the door development of these lands that are inconsistent with cranberry production.

You undoubtedly will hear from local politicians that adding houses to this high-valued farm land cuts operational costs of operating the cranberry farm or that the Chinese tariffs are killing off this high-valued product. You should consider this blather as the braying of self-centered jackasses whose real incentive is embracing [HB 2053] and [HB 2003]. There are "other Bills" in the hopper designed to destroy Oregon's agriculture statewide.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ David S. Wall