



133 SW Second Ave, Suite 201 • Portland, OR 97204 • (503) 497-1000 • fax (503) 223-0073 • www.friends.org

Southern Oregon Office • PO Box 2442 • Grants Pass, OR 97528 • (541) 474-1155 • fax (541) 474-9389

Willamette Valley Office • PO Box 51252 • Eugene, OR 97405 • (541) 520-3763 • fax (503) 223-0073

Central Oregon Office • 115 NW Oregon Ave #21 • Bend, OR 97701 • (541) 719-8221 • fax (866) 394-3089

House Committee on Land Use  
State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

February 26, 2013

RE: Support of HB 2201 & HB 2202

Dear Chair Clem and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony supporting HB 2201 and HB 2202, legislation to protect the best farm lands in the state. 1000 Friends of Oregon is a nonprofit, membership organization that works with Oregonians to support livable urban and rural communities, protect family farms and forests, and provide transportation and housing choice.

Agriculture is Oregon's second largest industry: 1 out of 8 jobs in this state is agriculture-related, and the industry is directly and indirectly linked to about \$22 billion in sales of goods and services, accounting for 15% of the statewide total of sales involving all industry sectors. Agriculture is traded-sector – 80% is sold out of state with 40% exported out of the country, bringing new dollars into Oregon. And those figures have been increasing almost steadily for two decades, which is not a story any other industry can tell.

1000 Friends of Oregon believes that agricultural land should stay in agricultural use. Aggregate mines have taken thousands of acres of high-value soils out of production. These bills only apply to about 20% of the farm lands in the Willamette Valley. However, according to DOGAMI, 39% of the aggregate mining in the Willamette Valley takes place on these outstanding soils and the lands are generally not reclaimed to farm use, taking them out of farm production. Unnecessary development of aggregate resources without farm reclamation needs to stop if we are going to continue to have a strong agricultural economy in Oregon.

HB 2201 merely requires reclamation of these outstanding quality lands for farm use after aggregate is mined from them. HB 2202 requires an alternatives analysis before an aggregate mine is approved on a tract with five or more acres of capability class I or II soils. These are modest proposals. Neither bill prevents aggregate mining on any lands. In fact, both bills would still allow aggregate mines on the highest quality soils in the state if certain requirements are met.

1000 Friends supports both of these bills. We ask that you pass one of these bills, ideally HB 2202, out of committee with a do pass recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven D. McCoy".

Steven D. McCoy  
Farm and Forest Staff Attorney