

DATE: April 1, 2017

TO: Senator Michael Dembrow, Chairman and Members of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee

FROM: Sam Sweeney, Yamhill County Farmer

REGARDING: SB 1036

The intent of SB 1036 is to exclude waste landfills from being under the jurisdiction and compliance regulations of the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) surface mining requirements.

Waste landfill operations surface mine a large amount of soil in their construction of cells for depositing imported waste and in the covering of filled ones. In this process they often operate in sensitive wetlands that have both surface and subsurface natural movements of water. In order for this to be done properly without destroying these natural drainage routes and affecting adjacent landowners; they need an approved plan with the oversight of a creditable agency that has the ability to do this. Currently, this is DOGAMI.

To exclude DOGAMI from the planning and oversight process could result in some disastrous consequences. In Yamhill County, Waste Management operates a landfill that has cells less than 450' from the Yamhill River. Within that 450' are riparian areas that are only slightly above river elevation. If they were to remove soil from this area, it could result in the river channel migrating closer to the filled cells endangering their structural integrity and allowing waste to enter the Yamhill River.

Oregon citizens need to be assured that waste landfills will have properly designed plans with the oversight of a creditable agency such as DOGAMI.

Therefore I strongly urge you to defeat SB 1036.

Sincerely,

Sam Sweeney
1070 Ferry St.
Dayton, OR 97114

