

Dear Chair Clem, Vice-Chairs McLain and Sprenger, and Members of the Committee:

I apologize for not submitting this comment earlier. We have been out of town.

I submitted maps and other materials before the first hearing, and I hope you will continue to consider those (and testimony by others) as you proceed to consider the amended bill SB 1036.

While I appreciate the bill's amendment, I worry that DEQ -- like DOGAMI -- will not have the time or interest to pay attention to surface mining of valuable topsoil in our EFU zones where at least one landfill (Riverbend Landfill in Yamhill County) is located, or to mining in the floodplain, which is also a problem at Riverbend.

Reclamation is absolutely necessary in this location. Yet with the real potential of serious losses in staff and funding given the steep cuts we are expecting in EPA funds, DEQ will likely not be able to ensure that mining does not jeopardize the floodplain or the "farmability" of EFU land, even if reclamation is required in the landfill's operating permit.

At the very least, you might require DEQ to consult with other interested agencies, including ODA, ODF&W, DSL, and DOGAMI, before issuing a permit that allows surface mining in EFU zones or floodplains.

Thank you.

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