WCP

As a fifth generation small family owned business in Oregon, we are concerned with the proposed legislation. We have survived over the last 126 years as an organization by protecting our employees, customers, and communities by a commitment to quality products and services for the construction and the agriculture industry. I have work for in and for this family business for 43 years and this is also a personal issue to me. This kind of legislation will damage our ability our firm in many ways. Let me outline the three largest areas of concern:

1.) *Without a quality rock product, we will not be able to produce a high quality concrete that we have built our business and reputation on. There are no alternative raw material substitutes for concrete base – it needs to be strong so it supports the engineering that is required for our customers. These engineering standards are required for building structures. A recent example is the concrete we provided for the reconstruction of the Historic Oregon City Arch Bridge. Other load bearing structures also requires this material. There is not an alternative to using high quality rock materials that we currently use from our mines today. Our mine is also our largest single asset to our company.*
2.) *Forced us to cut employee's that rely on us for family wage earnings. Many of our employees are second and some are even third generation employees. The 80 families, that our employees have, work, raise their children and contribute to local communities within the Willamette Valley. We are a small business and every family is important to us. Our company is based on giving our employees access to a good family paying wages - That is why this legislation will risk our business. This loss of employee will cut at the very heart of our company.*
3.) *Limit our ability to environmentally contribute in our state. Our environmental business, which is building wetland and habitat restoration, would be impact by this kind of narrow legislation. In our mines, as wells as our agriculture and environment work, we look at historical reference sites and use this model for building restoration projects. We are building and increasing wetlands with complex wildlife habitat in the Willamette Valley, that where historically converted due to human impact. Building diverse wetland communities and strong environmental based mitigation build a better function habitat for all concerned. For instance, we currently source over 20,000 plants a year and are involved in multi projects to restore and build natural wetlands and native upland communities in the basin. Many of these project move farmland to their historic reference conditions, which maybe wetland and more diverse, complex habitats. We also involved in removed and rebuilding stream-banks into bettering functioning alcoves as opposed to armored rock walls. This legislation would limit the ability to add this kind of value to our communities, state and the natural state of the river.*

This just does not make plain sense to us or our organization as a small, family owned, fifth generation business in Oregon. It introduces risk that out weight any value that may have been in the intent of the proposed legislations.

Kind regards
George.