



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF OREGON**

*The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 98-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.*

February 20, 2018

To: Joint Committee on Transportation  
Senator Lee Beyer and Representative Caddy McKeown, Co-Chairs

Re: **HB 4060, -7 amendment**, relating to reduction in local review of impacts on aggregate mining – **Oppose**

The League of Women Voters would like to provide comments for the record on the -7 amendment of HB 4060, proposed by the aggregate industry. We oppose this amendment, based on our long-standing positions in support of our statewide land use planning system with local implementation. We acknowledge that a sufficient supply of aggregate is needed for transportation projects, but not at the expense of local reviews of key environmental impacts, such as dust, noise, and water quality.

It is our opinion that such a substantial change in established land use policy should be carefully crafted, not hurriedly introduced in a transportation bill amendment. The intent of the aggregate industry is clear—create a streamlined permitting process for siting aggregate mines on EFU land. Yet a fast-track solution must not subvert a key part of Oregon’s land use system—local government review and opportunities for citizen input from those most affected by mining operations. Quality of life is one of the things Oregonians value highly. We must value the interests of those who live and work near mining sites. Their voices should be able to be heard when making these important decisions at the local level.

The League was a participant in the Aggregate/Farmland Consensus Process from 2004 to 2006, which was tasked with developing a recommended state policy for siting and regulating aggregate mines on farmland. Unfortunately, consensus did not occur at that time, and many conflicts remain unresolved. Yet we remain convinced that the best course of action is for all sides to work together to arrive at solutions, preferably during the interim and not in the busy days of a short session.

We strongly urge a “no” vote on adopting the -7 amendment of HB 4060.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Norman Turrill in black ink.

Norman Turrill  
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Marge Easley in black ink.

Marge Easley  
LWVOR Action Committee