

Submitter: Robin Bloomgarden

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB726

In Oregon, landfill operators are required to conduct surface emissions monitoring across the landfill every quarter and submit these reports to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. However, analysis shows that 33% of landfill surface area is excluded from any monitoring!

SB 726 will fix this, by requiring landfill operators to deploy commercially available drones and advanced monitoring technologies to detect methane plumes across landfills. Drones and flyover monitoring using planes or satellites would allow larger areas of the landfill to be easily monitored for leaks. This bill would also improve transparency by requiring reports to be shared in spatial data formats, a very common way to display data digitally.

This will ultimately lead to better detection and mitigation of leaks, reducing overall emissions and strengthening Oregon's commitment to climate resilience, and is one of the most impactful actions we can take in the short term to slow climate change.

Methane plumes also release health-harming pollutants that are present in the trash as it breaks down over time and escape with the methane, such as nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, hydrogen sulfide, toluene and PFAS, forever chemicals.

The methane leaks on a mountain in Southern California caught fire and burned for many months under and around many expensive homes before being finally extinguished. Those people had to leave their homes for an extended period of time. At least that one didn't blow up!

Thank you all for addressing this important issue.

I strongly support SB 726!