

TO: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
RE: Support of SB 726
DATE: February 21, 2025

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Smith, and Members of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee,

My name is Ellie Kim, a Sociology student attending Willamette University, and I strongly encourage the Committee to support SB 726, which would require the owner or operator of a municipal solid waste landfill to conduct surface emissions monitoring and report data.

The 2024 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) investigation **discovered 41 exceedances of the legal methane emission limit of 500 ppm at Oregon landfills**, which is explicitly violating Oregon State environmental standards and the Clean Air Act. Furthermore, Republic Services expansion of the landfill would exacerbate air pollution and raise the risk of methane emissions. **Frontline local communities would be the first to experience environmental consequences.** This landfill would shut down the primary ingress and egress route for the community, pose dangers on available fire evacuation routes, and increasingly force waste burdens on local communities. By supporting SB 726, Oregon can protect its communities from further environmental degradation and ensure safer living conditions.

Oregon isn't alone in addressing methane emissions in landfills. In 2022, the Washington Legislature set a goal to reduce landfill-bound organic waste, which produces high levels of methane, by 75% by 2030. California does something similar by implementing SB 1383 (2016), which would require emissions of methane 40% below 2013 levels by 2030. Oregon can follow suit by enacting similar regulations for landfills.

SB 726 provides an important opportunity to eliminate hazardous air pollutants and solve a public health issue by allowing for the use and **use of modern technology to monitor these methane leaks without endangering human health.** All Oregonians will benefit from clean air, safer neighborhoods, and a sustainable future if SB 726 is passed. For the well-being of our local communities and the future of Oregon's environment, I urge you to support SB 726.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ellie Kim