

**Testimony for Senate Bill 726**  
**Senate Committee on Energy and Environment**

**Submitted By: Ella Allen**  
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Chair Janeen Sollman, Vice Chair David Brock Smith, and members of the Senate Energy and Environment committee, my name is Ella Allen. I am a student at Willamette University, and I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 726.

SB 726 is a necessary bill that will protect the public's health through enhanced methane monitoring, ensuring that landfill methane emission levels are accurately reported, allowing action to be taken to reduce methane emissions.

I grew up in constant proximity to toxic air pollutants, specifically Radon, which was heavily present in my home with levels reaching over double what the EPA deems safe. The air pollutant was never accurately measured, and my family was told that the level was acceptable. It was not until my sister and mother began experiencing breathing issues that we learned that the Radon levels were well above the safety margin. My sister was eventually diagnosed with asthma, a condition that does not run in my family, likely exacerbated as a result of exposure to radon gas. My parents were not accurately informed about the toxic levels of Radon, hindering actions that could have been taken to reduce the pollutant levels until it was too late.

The methane gas released from landfills in Oregon has been recently surveyed by the EPA, finding landfill methane exceedances over 100,000 parts per million. This is **double** the EPA standard of 500 parts per million.

Excess landfill gas emissions pose great health risks to those in surrounding areas. Landfill gases move through soil and air and make their way into homes and buildings through cracks, doors, windows, and ventilation systems. The gases then congregate in poorly ventilated areas, similar to Radon. **This exposes individuals to these toxic gases, likely without their knowledge of the extent of their health risks.**

Landfill gases, especially those other than methane: nitrogen, oxygen, hydrogen, and non-methane organic compounds (NMOCs) such as ammonia and sulfides have been recognized as contributing factors to adverse health effects. Cancer, respiratory issues, and asthma have all been linked to exposure.

Many landfills in Oregon are located in the heart of cities, near buildings, homes, and workplaces. **This puts our communities at immense risk, most of whom are likely uninformed of the levels of harmful accumulated gases that lurk invisibly in their homes.**

The continuous and thorough monitoring proposed by SB 726 will allow action to be taken to reduce the disastrous levels of methane emissions that are emitted from Oregon landfills daily, keeping communities safe from harm and allowing them to feel safe in their own homes.

**Please help protect our communities before it is too late.**

Thank you for your time and support,

Ella Allen