

Date: February 21, 2025  
To: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
Subject: Support SB 726

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

My name is Brenda Garcia Mejía, a resident of Salem, OR, and a student currently enrolled at Willamette University. I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 726, which aims to improve the tracking of methane gas emissions at landfills. This bill is an opportunity to assure the environmental, public health, and community safety difficulties associated with methane gas emissions.

The lack of keeping up monitoring of methane emissions could lead to unfortunate consequences, including wildfire disasters, which have devastating effects on families and communities. Imagine hearing the news that your home was lost due to a wildfire, a disaster that could have been prevented through better monitoring of landfill emissions. Therefore, it's best to act before having to encounter such scenarios.

Coffin Butte Landfill, located near our community, already contributes significantly to environmental harm as every other one. Failing to take action now could further worsen this existent difficulty. It is essential to take efficient steps to ensure that emissions are being effectively monitored and managed rather than risk more harm. **The technology and resources are already available to address this problem, and it's both logical and responsible to use them.** Wouldn't we want to prevent further damage to our environment and communities as much as we can?

While regular monitoring checks may require some time to apply, **it is important to note that these checks will reduce the time staff spend reviewing reports. This will also be less costly.** Moreover, using drones equipped with the appropriate technology will allow for efficient and safe monitoring without placing personnel at risk. This approach not only minimizes the potential dangers to workers but also ensures that methane emissions are being tracked with greater accuracy.

SB 726 will not only help in the tracking of emissions but also help with reducing environmental harm, protecting public health, and ensuring overall safety.

I strongly push you to follow through with this bill,

Sincerely,  
Brenda Garcia Mejía  
Salem, Oregon  
Student at Willamette University