

Submitter: Bruce Cowger

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB726

I strongly urge you to pass SB 726, requiring landfill operators to monitor and report, in a comprehensive and ongoing fashion, emissions of methane.

The Coffin Butte landfill, just north of Corvallis, emits massive amounts of methane. The landfill's operator, a private corporation, has for years demonstrated in numerous ways their disregard for environmental impact. Thus it's no surprise that their currently reported values, taken with a handheld methane monitor, vastly under-report this landfill's emissions.

When private entities are unable or unwilling to address their contribution to global warming, a legislated solution is mandated. In the current political climate, federal action is unlikely. Oregon citizens therefore need SB 726 to pass and to be implemented thoroughly so that the methane plumes from Coffin Butte and other Oregon landfills are finally subdued.

Methane is a consequential contributor to greenhouse warming. In 2024, our planet had already warmed 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and there is insufficient action worldwide to stem further warming. We owe it to our children and to successive generations to take reasonable and immediate action. SB 726, like our 1971 bottle bill, will be an example of how governmental agencies everywhere can take steps to keep Earth habitable for humans.

Thank you.