

Submitter: John Livingston

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB726

I am a retired civil engineer with over 20 years of designing and monitoring landfills in California, Nevada and Arizona. Because it is a clear gas you cannot see it, but methane is a powerful greenhouse gas, with more than 80 times the warming potential of carbon dioxide. We need to significantly reduce methane emissions in order to slow climate warming trends in the short term. Every landfill in Oregon except some inert, non-organic demolition debris sites emit methane. Oregon's municipal and commercial refuse landfills contribute significantly to methane pollution and current monitoring practices leave large portions of landfill surfaces unmonitored as well as underground emissions to groundwater and adjacent properties. Without improved tracking methods, methane emissions can continue unchecked and unregulated.

SB 726 will ensure that all areas of landfills are monitored for methane leaks by implementing modern technologies like drones and stationary monitoring equipment. This will ultimately lead to better detection and mitigation of leaks and using the methane for electricity production, thus reducing overall emissions and strengthening Oregon's commitment to climate resilience.

Please pass SB 726