

Submitter: Pam Castle

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB726

Senators,

I am writing in strong support for SB 726. We must do our best to make sure that the methane emissions from our landfills is reduced to the lowest possible levels possible to protect the environment and the lives of Oregonians. Our current monitoring requirements allow for much of the released methane to go undetected. Without knowing how much and where it is being released, landfill operators cannot address the causes. If the true magnitude of the problem is known, landfill operators can be held to account and required to change practices to reduce these emissions. This would also give urgency to finding possible alternative solutions to the problem. In addition to being a potent greenhouse gas, methane is highly flammable increasing risk of fire at landfills. As someone who lives 8 miles from a landfill, this possibility is frightening - judging from the odor we smell some days, we know that we would be exposed from many pollutants released by such a landfill fire.

I urge you to support this bill and to verify it is rigorous enough to hold landfill owners to account so that emissions are prevented.

Thank you,
Pam Castle