

Submitter: Gwynn Sawyer Ostrom

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB726

Dear Chair and Members of the Oregon Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

My name is Gwynn Sawyer Ostrom, and I'm writing in strong support of SB 726, which would help improve methane monitoring emissions at Oregon's landfills. As an Oregon resident and advocate for environmental health and climate resilience, I believe this bill is critical to ensure that we accurately track and mitigate dangerous methane leaks that threaten both public health and our environment.

Landfills are among the largest sources of methane emissions in Oregon! Methane is a strong greenhouse gas, even more potent than carbon dioxide over time. Thus, its threat to our climate is immediate and severe. Currently, landfill operators are required to monitor methane emissions quarterly. However, many privately owned landfill surfaces are excluded from this requirement. This gap in monitoring means that methane leaks can go undetected in our state, leading to unchecked emissions that accelerate climate change and worsen air pollution.

SB 726 can close this gap! This monitoring bill will require the use of drones and modern technology to detect methane plumes across the state. This can help our state develop more comprehensive, efficient, and accurate emissions tracking systems across entire landfill sites. Improved monitoring can help our state agencies make informed, data-backed decisions moving forward.

Additionally, methane also carries significant health risks. Landfills release methane and other toxic air pollutants that harm people's respiratory health, especially those who live near landfills.

Oregon has an opportunity to lead in climate smart policies that implement modern solutions that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote healthier communities, and to that end I believe SB 726 is a very practical step toward a cleaner, more climate-resilient future. I urge you to pass this bill to ensure that Oregon landfill operators have what they need to properly ensure that methane emissions are properly monitored and mitigated.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gwynn Sawyer Ostrom