

Submitter: Rana Foster
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB726
Feb 23, 2025

Dear Senate Committee On Energy and Environment,

I support SB 726 as it increases the tools that the State of Oregon and the EPA have to determine extent of methane pollution in real time.

In 2022 the EPA did an announced Methane survey of Coffin Butte Regional Landfill in Benton County and found 61 methane leakage points, inside a very small area transected, on this landfills surface. These 61 gas leaks are emitted methane and other toxic gases in quantities to be explosive and exceeded State of Oregon DEQ methane gas release limit. TitleV air Contamination Discharge Permit issued from DEQ to Republic Service may not cover fugitive Methane leaks, so the outdated expired, TitleV ACDPermit currently inside to Republic Service for the operation of CBRegional Landfill should consider fugitive methane leaks volume when TitleVACDischarge Permit is renewed in 2025.

In 2024, the EPA did an second, unannounced methane survey of Coffin Butte Regional Landfill and found 41 methane leaks, again with many leaks being at the explosive level. Carbon Mapper website shows a satellite image of gas cloud above Coffin Butte Regional Landfill. This toxic mixed gas cloud, always remains over this landfill and is multiple miles wide and long.

SB726 is for monitoring, but both the DEQ and EPA have not fined Republic Service for methane pollution ongoing after both the 2022 and 2024 Methane Surveys. How will the legislature provide for fining methane polluters like Republic Service with this landfill being the largest Methane polluter in Oregon?

Republic Service makes 70 million dollars a year at CBRegional Landfill. Coffin Butte Regional Landfill is Republic Service's most profitable landfill in the U.S.

Benton County gets paid 3.5 Million dollars per year from Republic Service to host this landfill in Benton County. Benton County currently has zero land use code which supports protection of the environment in the Benton County land use code under Land Fill Zone chapter created just for Coffin Butte Regional Landfill.

Benton County has never enforced any Conditions of Approval for passage of prior new landfill and landfill expansions land use requests as Conditional Use Permits(CUP).

In March or April 2025, Republic Service will go to a land use hearing to request passage of LU24-027 for an Expansion of this landfill as a CUP. In this CUP, Benton County and Republic Service have agreed in a Franchise Operation Agreement 2020-2040 if LU24-027 passes there will be no more cap on tons dumped per year and this triggers unlimited dumping. Benton County will make more money

for their General Fund and Republic will make more money from unlimited dumping.

None of the current 22 Oregon Counties, two Oregon Cities and one Washington city pay anything into Benton County for a closure liability fund. Benton County tax payers will be stuck paying for closure when Valley Landfill Inc who owns Republic Service for WCSI, abandons CBRegional landfill after a natural disaster such as earthquake, fire, unstoppable landfill derived ground water pollution, or at closure.

Currently the State Fire Marshal and Benton County Fire Defense Board may not have a fire management plan for Coffin Butte Regional Landfill in an event of a fire which both Republic Service workers at the landfill, and Adair Rural Fire and Rescue can not put out. Methane is highly explosive and is a carcinogen. People, their pets and livestock live in Soap Creek Valley where Coffin Butte is located. People recreate at

E E Wilson Wildlife Refuge, OSU Beef Ranch , City of Adair Village and Santiam Christian are a mile away.

As this landfill expands, methane generation increases as more landfill compacts, ages and gets exposed to water which promotes anaerobic decomposition in the Willamette Valley's very wet climate. Please support passage of SB726. Thank you, R.Foster Corvallis, Oregon .