

Corvallis OR 97330
February 23, 2025

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment, I first want to thank you for this opportunity to share my concerns about this issue and support for Senate Bill 726. My name is Carrie Norris and I, along with my two daughters, live in the Soap Creek Valley at the foot of Smith Peak and approximately 2 miles due west of the Coffin Butte landfill, an operation whose growth I can see, hear, and smell from my back deck.

I am a full time employee of a regional healthcare provider, focused on workforce training pathways and work full time from home as well as the owner and sole operator of a small CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). From my small farm, I feed my own and several other families with fresh fruits, vegetables, honey and eggs. In these capacities, I am at my home most of the time and outside often and thus am highly aware of the day-to-day impact of the landfill on the air in our valley.

As the 7th generation to grow up on a family farm in Illinois and who now lives rurally in Oregon, I am a believer in the independence and neighborliness exhibited in these sparsely populated areas. Rural people are both highly self-sufficient but also highly conscientious neighbors. We help each other and take great pains to mitigate any risks or negative impact our own activities might have on our neighbors. I ask that our landfill neighbor behaves in the same manner.

In addition to valid concerns about the health implications of the methane from the landfill, our tinder-dry summers combined with the flammable nature of methane are a significant fire concern. The odors from the landfill are increasingly prevalent and as a neighbor, it is imperative that they **accurately** and **effectively** monitor the **entirety** of their operation as it pertains to methane (an unhealthy and highly flammable gas very likely in the miasma I frequently smell hanging over our valley) - that is, that they make an actual effort not to cause harm.

The current state, where they are able to be highly selective in their so called 'monitoring', is not just inadequate, it invites a blind eye. Unfortunately, they do not have a trustworthy track record in this regard and appear to have taken full advantage of the selective nature that the current monitoring rules implicitly reward. Monitoring via the method and by the rules spelled out in SB 726 would provide a more accurate and comprehensive picture of the methane escapes as compared to current practice. This will provide Oregonians living in the valley with more accurate information about what we are breathing and the true extent of the fire risk.

There is no downside to the Oregon population and land fill neighbors (your constituency) to this proposal and I implore you to support this straightforward, sensible, prudent bill.

Respectfully,

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Carrie Norris