

Submitter: Eliza Murphy

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB726

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Eliza Murphy. I'm writing to express my support of SB 726. It is imperative to improve methane emissions monitoring and reporting at all of Oregon's landfills. This bill is a crucial measure that mandates more effective, accurate and comprehensive monitoring of the release of this potent greenhouse gas at all landfills in Oregon -- both publicly and privately-owned landfills.

The first step toward climate mitigation requires the identification of sources of this "super" greenhouse gas. Methane is 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide in its ability to warm the planet. Landfills rank third in the list of human activities generating methane gas emissions. Recent studies show the amount of methane leaking from landfills is likely far greater than the official data -- sometimes emitting 200 times the regulatory limit. At levels high enough to be described as "explosive".

Insufficient monitoring systems and under reporting are long overdue for an overhaul. SB 726 will expand and update data collection methods to fine tune the detection of methane plumes that extend across the entire surface of landfills.

As trash breaks down in a landfill, a suite of harmful pollutants like PFAS, sulfur dioxide, toluene, and nitrogen oxides escapes with the methane gas. Methane is dangerous not only for its impact on the global climate, but it also poses a threat to public health and the environment.

The urgency this bill be passed cannot be overstated. Please support SB 726. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Eliza Murphy