

Submitter: Brent Pawlowski  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB726

please do NOT support SB726

This bill is for increased methane emission regulations which is already regulated by the EPA. More regulation by Oregon would say, "Oregon does not trust the EPA".

This bill calls for remote sensing measurements (drone, satellite, etc) which are not reliable. For example, a new aerial sensing technology called "carbon mapper" claims to map 'methane clouds' but is highly dependent on weather and wind conditions. Some days show "no methane" while others show variable signals. It would be irresponsible to push landfill operators to use an unproven technology. Also, a landfill owner could just pick the windy days to measure emissions when the signal would be the weakest.

It needs to be emphasized that remote, aerial, or drone methane measurement methods are unproven for accurate data. The EPA has NOT developed a test method specification for aerial sensing and neither has the Oregon DEQ. What proponents are asking for does not yet exist.

Landfills have reduced methane greatly compared to years past. Landfills are now required to cover waste each day and have methane capture. Increasing regulation will have no effect on methane losses with current technology. The increased regulation will also trickle-down cost effects on waste disposal. It affects the low-income Oregon residents the most. How is that equitable?

This legislation is being pushed by "beyond toxics". Information and claims by this group should be checked for accuracy. For example, a recent mass mailing claimed landfill leachate was "dumped directly in the Willamette River" which was completely false. The information supplied by this group cannot be trusted.

In Benton County, Republic Services is a large landfill owner and operator. They have shown to be good stewards at complying with regulation and do not have current enforcement action on record in Oregon. Republic Services actually has been acquiring old landfills across the country and bringing them up to modern standards. For example, in the case of Coffin Butte Landfill in Benton County, Republic Services dug up the old un-lined portion of the landfill and moved to the modern, lined, and protected portion of the property.

Landfill operators already do regular methane checks and self-report. This allows

continual audits of methane leaks which are immediately corrected per EPA procedure. LANDFILLS ARE ALREADY REQUIRED TO DO WHAT SB726 PROPOSES. Landfill operators have the data available for review at any time. Let us not pile on more regulation.

This legislation will not improve methane or so-called greenhouse gases in a measurable way. It will only increase costs. The EPA has standards and has methodically managed landfill emissions. Oregon should not pile on another layer of regulation.

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