

Submitter: Catherine Campanella-Stearns

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB726

Chair Sollman and Committee Members:

For more than 30 years I have lived less than two miles from Coffin Butte (Regional Landfill (CBL). For most of that time, I was unaware of the amount and extent of the hazards this for-profit facility imposes on its neighbors and surrounding communities. I defer to the expertise of scientists and engineers for facts and data that prompt the need for SB726. Add my name to the many in favor of this bill. It makes sense as long as there is enforcement of the monitoring.

For most of its years in Benton County, the landfill operators operated with impunity to their contractual obligations for monitoring the obnoxious emissions and effluents they generate at the landfill. It is my opinion that all landfill operators need to pay for independent, third party monitoring. Otherwise, we still have the fox minding the hen house. I am sure the industry lobbyists will attempt to weaken the provisions required by this much needed legislation. If the solid waste industry has a conscience or even cared about being a responsible business, this bill would not be necessary. Alas, here we are with "our fingers in the dike" of climate change.

Thank-you to Senator Gelser-Blouin and others for sponsoring this bill. Once again Oregon has an opportunity to lead the way by passing this sensible legislation.

Catherine Campanella-Stearns