

Submitter: Alex Staben

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB726

I urge you to support the increased drone and overhead monitoring and reporting transparency of methane leaks from Oregon landfills.

Landfills are the third-largest source of human-generated methane, a greenhouse gas 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide. In Oregon, landfill operators are required to conduct surface emissions monitoring across the landfill every quarter and submit these reports to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. However, Beyond Toxics' analysis shows that 33% of landfill surface area is excluded from any monitoring! When looking at privately operated landfills alone, the number jumps to 50%. The EPA has also recently issued an alert stating landfills are not complying with the law! This means methane leaks are happening and not being reported or mitigated to limit emissions.

Landfill operators should be obligated to deploy commercially available drones and advanced monitoring technologies to detect methane plumes across landfills. Drones and flyover monitoring using planes or satellites would allow larger areas of the landfill to be easily monitored for leaks. The improved transparency that this bill calls for, in requiring reports to be shared in spatial data formats, is another key step forward. Please think of the safety of our planet and local communities. Protect people from methane leaks.

Thank you for your consideration,
Alex Staben
The Dalles, OR