

Submitter: Laurie Dougherty  
On Behalf Of: 350 Salem OR  
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB726

Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Brock Smith, and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment:

My name is Laurie Dougherty. I live in Salem and am a Co-Coordinator of 350 Salem OR, local affiliate of international climate justice organization 350.org. 350 Salem OR supports SB726 requiring improvements to monitoring methane emissions from landfills.

Methane is a potent greenhouse gas contributing to the worsening climate change crisis and landfills are the third largest source of methane emissions in the United States. While landfills are required to monitor and report these emissions to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, analysis shows that current technology does not cover all of a landfill's area and therefore does not find all methane emissions. According to a recent Enforcement Alert the EPA found that "MSW [Municipal Solid Waste] Landfills are Violating Monitoring and Maintenance Requirements" and that methane emissions are higher than reported.

In order to mitigate methane emissions from landfills, it is necessary to know what they are. SB726 requires up-to-date monitoring technology like drones and other advanced methods that cover the entire area of a landfill, greatly improving the accuracy of reporting. Oregon has undertaken many legislative and agency actions to reduce climate changing emissions. SB726 is an important next step.

We urge the Committee to vote Yes on SB726 with a Do Pass recommendation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.