

Submitter: Joel Geier

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB726

I support this bill. A growing body of evidence from both Oregon and nearby states shows that landfills are a major source of methane emissions, impacting global climate.

Satellite and aerial surveys in California have shown that industry-standard methods for estimating methane emissions based on past intake of solid waste (i.e. using the LANDGEMS model) are not reliable and generally underestimate the severity of the problem.

Recent US EPA inspections at the Coffin Butte landfill, operated by a subsidiary of Republic Services in Benton County, show that the landfill operator's own ground-based self-monitoring of methane emissions was grossly inaccurate, and severely underestimated the amount of this potent greenhouse gas that is leaking into the atmosphere.

Besides climate impacts, the methane leaking out of landfills carries other contaminants with it, including carcinogenic compounds and other compounds hazardous to human health.

For these reasons I strongly support this bill. Thank you for considering my testimony.