



4145 NE Cully Blvd., Portland, OR, 97630 | 503-290-8570

February 24, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: Support SB 726

Dear Chair and Members of the Oregon Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

My name is Xitlali Torres, I am the Air Quality and Climate Program Coordinator at Verde, and I'm writing in support of SB 726, which would help improve methane monitoring emissions at Oregon's landfills.

Landfills in Oregon account for a significant amount of methane emissions, which warrants significant care and consideration by our state leaders because of the serious impacts that [methane](#) can have on our environment, climate, and human health. When landfill gas escapes, other hazardous gasses, and [PFAs](#) escape with it, which have their array of hazardous effects on human health. Even small amounts of methane alone have an outsized impact on these sectors, so close monitoring is necessary. This is especially important when landfills are in areas close to neighborhoods, as is the case with the [Hillsboro Landfill](#).

Fortunately, the risks posed by methane leaks in landfills are recognized by the EPA, which requires landfill operators to monitor their methane emissions. Unfortunately, there are gaps in the landfill surface area that are monitored by landfill operators through the current monitoring practices, leaving too much area unknown. Furthermore, it has been found that our landfills emit significantly more than previously [thought](#) and that nationally there has been failure of landfills to meet monitoring and maintenance [requirements](#).

The logical next step is to increase monitoring capacity and utilize modern technologies, and this is laid out in SB 726. It responds to community concerns and brings sensible mitigation of harm for the communities that live near landfills in light of the known findings on landfills and methane pollution.

As a community advocate, I recognize the community's right to know what is in the air. SB 726 provides for easier communication through data visualization, this will allow for alerts to community members promptly in case of a leak and will bring peace of mind to residents. These improvements will help us in the future, by allowing our state agencies to make informed, data-backed decisions.



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Stringent monitoring of methane is critical to slow down the rate of climate warming and reduce harmful impacts on communities. This is one simple fix that Oregon can apply to move further toward achieving our climate and environmental justice goals. Please support SB 762.

Thank you for your consideration,

Xitlali Torres
Air Quality and Climate Coordinator
Verde