TO: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
RE: Support of SB 726 Coffin Butte Methane Monitoring Bill
DATE: February 25, 2025

Dear Chair Sollman and members of the Energy and Environment Committee,

My name is Miranda Jones, and I am currently attending Willamette University where I am majoring in environmental science and studio art. I am writing in support of SB 726, which would expand methane monitoring technology, improve data sharing, and enable landfills to identify and stop methane leaks.

As an environmental science student, I am deeply concerned about the climate crisis and the effect it will have on the future of my generation and those to come. Therefore, it is time to act and pass bills that support environmental protections and lower greenhouse gas emissions at the source.

Methane is an extremely potent greenhouse gas and air pollutant; it has a warming impact 86 times more potent than carbon dioxide and stays in the atmosphere for 12 years. In the U.S., landfills are the third-largest source of human-created methane emissions. EPA monitoring found that an area of Benton County's Coffin Butte Landfill was producing levels of methane over 100,000 ppm, well over the 500 ppm federal limit. This concentration of methane is dangerous because it could potentially explode and ignite materials in the landfill. Additionally, communities living around this landfill and others in Oregon may experience detrimental health effects from breathing in the methane gas.

Recently, the state of Washington announced a rule that requires quarterly monitoring of methane gas in active and closed landfills. Washington has employed the use of SnifferDRONEs, which decrease labor costs and perform testing 50% faster than regular manual inspections. The implementation of this technology is part of Washington's goal to, by 2050, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 95% below 1990 levels.

Let's follow in Washington's footsteps and protect the health of communities and the environment by monitoring methane at landfills and stopping leaks when they occur.

Thank you for your support,
Miranda Jones