



**Oregon State Senator
Sara Gelsner Blouin**

April 3, 2025

Chair Lively and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 3794, which proposes the creation of a taskforce to address the future of municipal solid waste management in the Greater Willamette Valley.

Coffin Butte Landfill currently receives over 1.1 million tons of waste annually, with only 6% of that waste originating from Benton County. The landfill has long served as a regional waste disposal site, but as we approach the end of its operational life, we must recognize that the implications of its closure will extend far beyond the immediate area. The challenges that lie ahead require a coordinated effort that includes not only local governments but also state-level leadership, regional coordination, and input from environmental experts, community groups, and waste management professionals.

One of the most pressing concerns is the methane emissions generated by the landfill. As you may be aware, last year the EPA found 41 locations at Coffin Butte where the methane emissions exceeded the legal maximum of 500 parts-per-million, including one location that was emitting more than 100,000 parts-per-million.

The taskforce envisioned in HB 3794 offers a critical opportunity for collaboration among a broad spectrum of stakeholders. By bringing together local municipalities, environmental organizations, community representatives, waste management professionals, and state officials, we can ensure that we are prepared to tackle the challenges presented by Coffin Butte's closure and create a system that serves the region's needs while protecting public health and the environment.

The future of waste management in the Greater Willamette Valley requires thoughtful, proactive planning. House Bill 3794 is an important step in beginning this process, and I urge you to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Sara A. Gelsner Blouin

Senator Sara Gelsner Blouin