

Submitter: Jim Scheppke
On Behalf Of: 350 Salem OR
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3794

Chair Lively and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of 350 Salem OR we wish to thank Representative McDonald and Senators Gelser Blouwin and Patterson for recognizing the need for a Task Force on Municipal Solid Waste in the Willamette Valley.

With the closure of the Reworld Marion incinerator in Brooks, most of Salem's solid waste is now going to the Coffin Butte landfill outside of Corvallis. While we are elated that after 38 years the Reworld Marion incinerator is no longer polluting our airshed with millions of tons of greenhouse gases and poisoning the community of Brooks with toxic chemicals, as recent moss studies have shown, we are equally concerned that now our solid waste is causing similar harms in Benton County.

While we support the need for a Task Force on Municipal Solid Waste in the Willamette Valley we cannot fully support HB 3794 as introduced for two primary reasons:

- 1) We question the composition of the Task Force as having membership that we fear will have a bias towards the status quo of continuing to dump our solid waste in an expanded Coffin Butte landfill. We see no reason for a "private hauler of solid waste" to be represented on the Task Force. We are concerned that the League of Oregon Cities and the Association of Oregon Counties recently opposed SB 726 to improve methane monitoring in landfills. We also would like to see members with "subject matter expertise" in the reduction and sustainable management of solid waste, not just in its "disposal."
- 2) Similarly, we object to the purpose statement in Line 22 of the bill as introduced which only speaks to "solid waste disposal" and fails to mention the need to find solutions for the reduction and environmentally responsible management of solid waste.

If HB 3794 were to pass in its present form, be assured that 350 Salem OR will engage with the task force process to try to achieve the best outcome possible so that Salem's solid waste can be dramatically reduced and responsibly managed in the future.

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