

Submitter: Virginia Scott
On Behalf Of: Current and Future Generations
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3794

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April 7, 2025

Chair Lively and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 2794 which establishes the Task Force on Municipal Solid Waste in the Willamette Valley. I agree largely with the testimony submitted on April 3, 2025 by Senator Sara Gelsler Blouin and I share the reservations submitted by Jim Schepcke in his testimony.

I would like to ask the committee to strongly consider amending the HB to not include "One member to represent a private hauler of solid waste that operates a landfill in the Willamette Valley". Our private hauler is a giant, out of State Corporation, whose sole motive is profit with no concern for the state, the environment, or Oregonians. This does not seem to be a valuable participant for developing a thoughtful solution for our states future.

Jims Schepcke states:

"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.”

Methane is a highly potent greenhouse gas, and there is no question about that fact, so having entities on a task force, who do not recognize and support this fact is not going to get us to a sound solution. I would rather see the HB amended to include knowledgeable citizen scientists and experts who can help get us to a safe, clean and workable solution for our state.

I also agree that the HB needs to be amended to address the upstream reduction of waste and the environmentally responsible management of solid waste. Let’s look to the reduction of materials going into the waste stream, the repurposing of materials before they hit the waste stream, etc. There are thoughtful and creative efforts going on all over the world that we could learn from and put into practice here.

I appreciate your time in considering this testimony.

Best Regards,

Virginia Scott