

Submitter: Carroll Johnston

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3794

I agree that a comprehensive strategy needs to be developed for appropriately dealing with municipal solid waste in the Willamette Valley. However, I believe improvements can be made to HB 3794 to help ensure that the ultimate products of the Task Force this legislation creates will be more friendly to the environment and protective of the health of citizens.

Both the members appointed to the Task Force and the charge presented to them need to be assessed and altered.

- 1) Amend the membership of the Task Force to include fewer representatives that have a financial interest in the proliferation of solid waste and replace them with members who have expertise in waste prevention and reduction and in minimization of negative impacts of waste disposal. Both private waste management companies and government entities that receive revenue from such companies appear more likely to prioritize continued or increased revenue from the waste stream than the health of citizens and the environment.
- 2) Provide a “charge” to the Task Force to place greater emphasis on waste prevention and reduction as opposed to waste “disposal” as implied by the words in Section 1, subsection (3) in the original wording of HB 3794 (“...solutions for solid waste disposal...”).

An outcome in which the Task Force proposes legislation that would facilitate the implementation of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality’s “2050 Vision and Framework for Action” related to materials management would be appropriate, for example, as opposed to suggesting that they focus on the Benton County Sustainable Materials Management Plan (SMMP), which appears to suffer from insufficient emphasis on waste prevention and reduction and from lack of adequate input from citizens most negatively affected by the pollution impacts of Coffin Butte Landfill. The Benton County SMMP could be destined for maintenance of the status quo rather than creative approaches to truly “sustainable” materials management and a healthier environment.

Link to Oregon DEQ’s Materials Management Program website:

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/mm/pages/default.aspx#:~:text=Our%20vision,taken%20to%20reduce%20those%20impacts.>

Please consider amendments to HB 3794 that will reflect the content and

environmentally friendly tone that I have suggested.