

Submitter: Debbie Palmer
On Behalf Of: VNEQS
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB726

Chair Lively and members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment, my name is Debbie Palmer.

I am a rural Benton County resident who lives in Soap Creek Valley and approximately 4.5 miles south of Republic Services' Coffin Butte Landfill.

I cannot urge you strongly enough to support SB 726. Landfills are “supposedly” the third largest contributor to human-caused methane emissions, but it is now evident that — when comparing data from state-of-the-art advanced technology monitoring to that from the out-of-date hand-held-unit monitoring system currently approved by DEQ — those emissions are being significantly underreported. Consequently, landfills are causing way more climate damage than has been previously believed.

This is your opportunity to fix that.

Technology now exists to track “actual” landfill methane emissions in real time, over the entire surface of a landfill, instead of by walking a tiny fraction of its surface with handheld unit, prone to human error or, in some cases, outright meddling to skew, hide or obfuscate results. Satellites and drones don't fudge results. They are impartial. Not only would they monitor the entire landfill, they can also pinpoint leaks at their source in such a way that cannot be denied or otherwise explained away by landfill operators. Landfill operators should then be required to repair/stop leaks promptly or face steep fines or even threat of closure if they cannot control chronic leaks. Everyone now knows how acute methane is in causing climate damage; every opportunity we have to stop leaks at their source is important.

Not only do I urge you to pass SB 726 into law, I urge you to make sure it is robust - monitoring needs to happen *often*, not just once every quarter or less (Monthly? Weekly? Satellite or flyover tech could do this in a heartbeat). Regular monitoring will not only identify leaks sooner so that they can be fixed in a timely manner, it will also catch the chronic polluters red-handed; they will no longer be able to explain away a plume of methane that's been emitting steadily for weeks or months - causing damage that impacts us all.

With that in mind, it would be best to NOT have the collection and submission of data be the responsibility of landfill operators; again, the technology exists to independently monitor and report. Monitoring could be done by satellite, overflight or

drone and submitted directly to DEQ and the landfill operators simultaneously. This would keep all reporting factual and unbiased.

Lastly: please do NOT let landfill operators and/or their lobbyists water down this bill! Stand fast and keep it rigorous; act on behalf of the environment and the humans that live in this beautiful state of Oregon, not on behalf of the profits and shareholders of out-of-state corporations.

I wish to express many thanks to Senator Gelser Blouin and the other sponsors for bringing this important bill forward.

Again, please to support SB 726.

Thank you,
Debbie Palmer
Valley Neighbors for Environmental Quality and Safety
(VNEQS) [pronounced "vee-necks"]
www.CoffinButteFacts.org