

Submitter: John Perona

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB726

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for SB 726. I write in SUPPORT of the bill.

I am Professor (emeritus) of Chemistry at Portland State University and author of the climate change science/policy text for laypersons titled From Knowledge to Power, which has been widely circulated in Oregon.

I support this bill because it asks landfill operators to bring the latest technology to bear on monitoring for methane emissions. This will allow operators and DEQ to be aware of these emissions, which have significant implications for climate change. Operators of large landfills already have to minimize emissions by complying with regulations under the federal Clean Air Act, and this state provision will assist in achieving the goals of the federal law.

As best I know, Oregon presently has no broad, statewide mandate, on top of the federal law, to actually mitigate landfill emissions - although some individual landfills may be asked to mitigate methane emissions as part of their permitting requirements. However, the Oregon Clean Fuels Program provides a strong incentive for landfill operators to capture emissions and then sell the captured methane for credits.

It could be beneficial to explore synergies between this proposed new monitoring law, and the incentives provide under the CFP. As part of the regulations implementing this new law, DEQ could certainly encourage landfill operators to participate in the voluntary CFP.

No doubt ODEQ is well aware of the leading efforts in California and Colorado to require landfill methane monitoring using advanced technology. I encourage ODEQ to learn from and contribute to the efforts of these and other states as the program gains ground nationally.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of SB 726.