

Submitter: Bruce Cowger

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB726

Supporting Senate Bill 726  
Bruce Cowger  
Benton County resident

I strongly urge your support of 2025 Senate Bill 726.

My wife, Donna, and I live 5 miles southwest of the Coffin Butte landfill in northern Benton County. When we moved here in 1985, we never smelled any odor from the landfill. Nor was there any “dump smell” in the 1990s. But about twenty years ago, the smell became apparent at our house whenever the wind blew from the east. Since that time, the landfill has grown enormously, becoming one of the few active landfills in the Willamette Valley. This growth has steadily increased the frequency and severity of “dump smell” at our house.

It’s clear that Benton County has neither the authority nor the staff to monitor odor and methane emissions from Coffin Butte. And in January of this year, the EPA formally requested the self-monitoring records of the landfill’s operator. However, it’s increasingly doubtful that the EPA has the wherewithal to assess and regulate methane emissions from Coffin Butte, emissions which appear to be orders of magnitude greater than what the landfill’s management is reporting.

Therefore, both for odor control and to help limit global warming, SB 726 is critically important. Please keep Oregon a safe and desirable place to live by helping to pass this measure.

Thank you.