



Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the Committee,

As an organization which advocates for a just transition to clean energy, climate justice, and public health, Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter supports SB 726. Landfills are one of Oregon's largest sources of methane, a greenhouse gas about 28 times as potent as carbon dioxide over 100 years and over 80 times as potent as carbon dioxide over 20 years.¹ At high levels, it can also cause health problems² and create explosion and fire risks.

Closer monitoring of methane emissions with the latest technologies is urgently needed. The current methods are out-of-date and can lead to misleading data. In 2022, the EPA found that the Coffin Butte Landfill was emitting methane at levels above both the state and federal limits and above what the landfill had publicly reported.³ The landfill still had 40 locations where methane emissions exceeded the limits when the EPA returned in 2024.

SB 726 would require owners and operators of municipal landfills to monitor surface methane emissions using advanced methane detection technology according to rules to be issued by Oregon's Environmental Quality Commission (EQC). A report would be submitted to the EQC that would include latitude and longitude information about the measurements. Owners and operators would be required to re-monitor any locations with methane emissions above a level specified by the EQC after taking corrective action.

Protect Oregon's climate and residents from dangerous methane emissions from landfills. Please support SB 726.

Thank you,

Amanda Duncan
Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee
Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter

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<https://climate.mit.edu/ask-mit/why-do-we-compare-methane-carbon-dioxide-over-100-year-timeframe-are-we-underrating>

² <https://www.edf.org/how-methane-harms-our-health>

³

<https://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/politics/2025/02/25/oregon-senate-bill-726-landfill-monitoring/79433732007/>

About the Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter

The Climate Reality Project (CRP) Portland Chapter is a local, volunteer-led chapter of The Climate Reality Project, an international nonprofit of 5 million members led by climate leader and former US Vice President Al Gore, whose mission is to catalyze global solutions to the climate crisis. Our legislative committee bases its advocacy on CRP's 5 pillars: a just transition to clean energy, zero carbon transportation, climate justice and public health, green communities, and a fair, representative democracy. climaterealitypdx.com/, www.climaterealityproject.org