



THE BUREAU OF  
**PLANNING &  
SUSTAINABILITY**

May 1, 2025

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment  
900 Court St NE, HR F  
Salem, OR 97301  
Re: Support for SB 726

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

On behalf of the City of Portland's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS), I am writing to express support for Senate Bill 726.

BPS oversees Portland's garbage, recycling, and compost collection system, including evaluation of lifecycle climate impacts of materials and waste and equity impacts on disadvantaged communities. The methane gas produced by food scraps in landfills poses significant threats to our climate and public health. SB 726 represents a critical advancement in addressing these impacts by requiring landfill operators to implement emissions monitoring at Oregon landfills. Methane leaks are invisible. Because Oregon law does not mandate modern detecting technologies, methane leaks from landfills often go undetected.

Additionally, SB 726 requires landfill operators to report to the Department of Environmental Quality and to remediate any areas where emissions exceed state limits. Reducing methane emissions is an effective strategy to mitigate climate change and safeguard public health.

For these reasons, I urge your support of Senate Bill 726.

Sincerely,

Eben Polk  
Solid Waste & Recycling Manager, City of Portland, BPS



City of Portland, Oregon | Bureau of Planning and Sustainability |

[www.portland.gov/bps](http://www.portland.gov/bps)

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