

Submitter: D Torres

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB726

Chair & Committee Members,

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 726.

This bill may have unintended consequences and does not adequately consider the complexities of landfill operations.

1. Landfills are already subject to rigorous environmental regulations, including the management of methane emissions, through federal and state laws such as the Clean Air Act and the New Source Performance Standards for landfills. These regulations ensure that landfills monitor, control, and minimize methane emissions through well-established systems, including gas collection and recovery. This bill would unnecessarily duplicate existing regulations and impose additional burdens on landfill operators without clear evidence of significant, unaddressed methane risks.
2. The language of the bill does not sufficiently clarify what constitutes a "methane gas leak" and how it should be measured. Methane is a naturally occurring byproduct in landfills, and while leaks should certainly be addressed, not all methane emissions are a result of leaks that pose immediate or significant environmental or health risks. Requiring routine, blanket testing and repairs could divert resources from more impactful environmental management practices and place an undue financial burden on landfill operators, particularly smaller, local facilities. These additional costs may result in higher fees for communities that rely on these landfills for waste disposal.
3. The bill places a one-size-fits-all approach on landfill operations. Different types of landfills and different stages of landfill life (e.g., active versus closed landfills) require tailored approaches to methane management. The EQC should have the flexibility to focus efforts where they are most needed, rather than being mandated by this blanket directive, which may not be the most effective or cost-efficient solution.

I STRONGLY suggest you read Senator Robinson's presentation on this topic (a scientist's perspective) BEFORE you try introducing regulations for technology that does not exist. (ie; cart before the horse). I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO NOT PASS THIS WASTEFUL LEGISLATION.