

Submitters: Philip H. Carver, Ph.D. and Laurie Dougherty
On Behalf of the 350 Salem Oregon
To the House Committee On Climate, Energy and Environment
Hearing of May 8, 2025 on SB 1067

Greetings Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy and members of the Committee

350 Salem Oregon supports SB 1067

350 Salem is a volunteer organization advocating for a just transition to a renewable energy economy and for community-based resilience in response to the climate emergency. It is a member of [350.org](https://www.350.org). We are the co-coordinators.

The reason Marion County was given authority over solid waste generated in its cities was the desire to use all the waste to support the trash incinerator located near Brooks, Oregon. That plant is now closed. There is no longer a need for Marion County to have this authority. Only in Metro (Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington Counties) and Lane County does the county have this authority over the cities in the county.

350 Salem was an early proponent of having a Salem Climate Action Plan. The final plan <https://www.cityofsalem.net/home/showpublisheddocument/5348/637801058544930000> has 22 action items related to solid waste (page 226 of 264). Salem could better accomplish these actions with the passage of SB 1067, in coordination with Marion County.

The reduction of solid waste and the better management of the remaining waste is an important priority to reduce methane emissions, reduce toxic leachate from landfills and reduce other negative impacts of solid waste. Methane gas has many times the greenhouse effect of carbon dioxide gas. The climate crisis is real. Oregon should take every reasonable action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The City of Salem is best positioned to do this with the waste generated in the city.

There is nothing in SB 1067 that restricts the City of Salem working productively with Marion County and other Mid-Willamette Valley cities and counties to handle the trash generated in the city. This bill just gives Salem a seat at the table in working through what to do now that the trash incinerator near Brooks is permanently closed. Salem is by far the largest generator of trash in Marion County. It is unfair and inappropriate for Marion County to be the sole decision-maker in matters related to Salem's trash disposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.