

Submitter:

Commissioner David Loveall

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3971

Dear Chair Bowman and Vice Chair Drazen,

I want to strongly OPPOSE HB3971 the "super siting" bill before you for a waste and recycling facility in Goshen, Oregon, a location just South of my district of Springfield. In a few short weeks leading up to the signing of the contract with a private firm, Bulk Handling Systems in 2023, I received several hundred emails from constituents who were first learning of the costly 175 million dollar project and felt cut out of the process entirely. Several showed up to testify at the last hour to express confusion and dismay at the process, and I even made motion to put this monumental item of CleanLane to the voters. It was voted down 3-2, with Commissioner Ceniga and I against.

The process of citizen communication is only one debacle of this project, but this bill in specific would send a clear message and put a procedure in place whereby the citizens voice is smothered by the heavy hammer of government that sidestep our own land use codes and promises. The neighbors around this proposed site have tried desperately to speak against another trash and recycling site as they are less than a mile from the county's Short Mountain landfill. Further, the urgency of this proposal is half-truth. Currently our county landfill has "over 70 year's worth of life left which puts us in a very good position to make sound decisions moving forward," said the consultant we hired at the onset of this idea.

The Oregon Modernization act would also achieve the minimal goals of 10% diversion from our landfill without us building this portfolio piece for a local company that clearly doesn't move the environmental needle enough to justify it. Additionally, the cities of Springfield, Creswell and Cottage Grove are dumping their material in Jackson County cheaper than at Short Mountain thus we've already achieved the goal of 10% diversion and extending the life of the landfill by 20 years.

Lastly, this "super siting" won't help the trouble Lane County is in with this project as the contract was mindlessly assembled that puts EVERY COST LIABILITY to the county. Currently we don't have enough waste flow to even keep us out of daily fines for running the machine at less than optimum capacity agreed in the contract. We aren't even making enough money (even after our price increases last June) to service our portion of our proposed portion of the debt either.

There is much more, but these should give you reason to not support HB3971.

Warmly, Commissioner David Loveall