

Submitter: Robert Emmons
On Behalf Of: LandWatch Lane County
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3971

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Re: HB 3971

Chair Jama and Vice Chair Bonham,

More of us have become conscientious and knowledgeable about waste disposal in large part because more landfills across the country are offering technologically advanced recycling, methane capture and composting options that divert trash from unnecessary fill and make proper disposal easier and more environmentally sound. Those qualities are compromised, however, if local jurisdictions must continue to dump waste in the old-fashioned inefficient and unenlightened way and haul it hundreds, if not thousands, of miles away from where it was collected.

In the competition to build a state of the art waste/processing/sorting/ conversion facility in Lane County, a Eugene company, Bulk Handling Systems, was the overwhelming choice over the proposal submitted by Sanipac and EcoSort, both owned by the international hauling conglomerate Waste Connections, Inc. and doing highly lucrative business all over the country. At base, behind the need for HB 3971 and the opposition to it is an international corporation's sour grapes strategy to retaliate, in part, by having Sanipac haul its garbage 167 miles to a landfill it owns near Medford, deny Lane County the tipping fees it needs to pay off its contract debt and make more money for its holding company in Texas. And then have the audacity to frame its vested corporate interests as concern for local mom and pop haulers.

We trust that the committee will see through this sordid scheme by providing a foundation for "the most technologically advanced waste processing facility in the country." Fundamentally and more broadly, HB 3971 will assure that land owned by local governments and zoned for waste disposal outside urban growth boundaries will be available for that purpose close to where it is collected.

Thanks for your hearing on this important bill, and we urge you to support it for the betterment of the public and the environment.

Robert Emmons, President
LandWatch Lane County