

Submitter: Hope Segel-Vaccher
On Behalf Of: LWLC
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3971

Chair Bowman and Members of the Committee:

This proposed Bill was brought to your Committee as a last resort. Even while the project had been approved at the local level, Waste Connections and Sanipac continued to lobby like minded elected officials to deny the pending contract for the construction and operation of the facility. A good economic development project was turned into a divisive political issue because one large national corporation took hold of the narrative and concocted a misleading representation of what was being proposed.

Lane Ccounty Public Works has been working on securing a project and contract for their proposed waste management/recycling services for over two years; the only reason the project became controversial was because Waste Connections, a nationwide corporate garbage commodity owner based in Texas, and which has no recycling operations, was opposed to paying tipping fees at the LC dump site because they want all revenue from garbage collection for themselves. Currently, Waste Connections uses Interstate 5, for which they pay no taxes to help maintain, to move garbage from Lane County to their privately owned dump site in Medford, almost 400 miles round trip, who knows how many times a week. Each round trip requires an empty truck to return to Lane County in I-5, unless they are bringing trash back. The cost of doing so, financially and environmentally, is not their concern. Their concern is owning the commodity and every penny of revenue. Waste Connections is opposed to paying fees to a local government who wants to sort rather than merely dump garbage.

The proposed facility location is the unincorporated community of Goshen. Goshen is not a residential area. It is largely commercial and industrial, and is surrounded by I-5 and Highway 99; although the county's Light Industrial Zone does not recognize the proposed use, that is because the Zone and Plan are over 30 years old; recycling facilities were not a known 'use' in the early 1990's when Lane County codified allowed uses and related criteria for their Light Industrial Zone.

The project is funded with grants and in kind support and will not place a huge financial burden on residents of Lane County; people from around the state who have written in opposition but who do not live in Lane County seem to have been fed information by Sanipac and Waste Connections which is not accurate, and none of the opposition appears to understand what the project actually is or anything about the proposed location, Goshen. Passing this bill will have no negative consequences

for people living in or near Woodburn, Otis, Lincoln City, Keizer, North bend, Myrtle Creek, Canyonville, Albany, Newberg, etc. But it may help the people in Medford who might see less garbage hauling from almost 200 miles away.

This project comes with many benefits for the citizens of Lane County and will have no negative effects on any residential communities.

I urge you to please pass this bill out of your Committee.

Thank you.

Lauri Segel
LandWatch Lane County