

Submitter:

Ken Jones

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3971

Dear Chair Rep. Bowman and Vice-Chairs Rep Drazan and Rep Pham and House Committee on Rules members,

HP 3971 is an important bill to move forward as it is about setting in motion an effort that should be a model for how Oregon can manage its waste in a much more ecological way, one that helps Oregon with its climate goals. Both waste diversion and those climate goals are emergencies, as is the need to act quick to build projects like this in the Willamette Valley.

And the battle to keep it from happening is being waged by a big for profit company that is based in Texas which owns many garbage companies in Oregon. One of those companies is doing all they can to undermine a project in Lane County that would decrease methane release by 90% in our landfills because their poorly rated proposal to build and run the facility was rejected. They are now transporting what they pick up over 150 miles so as to prevent having to pay county tipping fees that was part of the way the project was going to be paid for. The company likes to present itself as good for the environment and community. They also are fighting in the court on zoning issues to stop the project so they get to keep more profit for themselves.

Oregon is running out of places to site landfills. There is already the main landfill for the County being used very close to where the CleanLane facility would be built on County land outside an urban growth boundary. That makes sense in so many ways. We need this bill to get Oregon moving rapidly on a model project for the state. Methane, a hugely polluting gas, 80 times more powerful than CO2 as a heat-trapping gas into our atmosphere in the first 20 years it is put there. It is playing a large part in our droughts and fires. Please vote this bill out of your Committee for passage so we can move in the right direction given that so much happening at the federal level that undermines the environment and ignores the accelerating climate chaos across the country.

Thank you for hearing from the people and considering their concerns,

Ken Jones