

Chair Bowman and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Rules,

I'm here to speak in opposition to House bill 3971.

I would like to preface my statement with: **This bill does NOT represent a real emergency!**

This bill states in part:

"This 2025 Act being necessary for the **immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist.**"

This is, to be completely frank about it, absurd. With the current volume of waste being delivered to the Short mountain waste disposal site, we have a projected timeline to capacity of over 90 years!

We also have the highest recycle rates by volume in the entire state of Oregon.

There is no state mandate for the 63% diversion rate. This is a completely voluntary goal set by Lane County.

If this bill goes forward, the tipping fees for the landfill are projected to jump up 47%! Folks will start disposing of their trash indiscriminately. **That** will be a true matter of concern!

The existing laws were put in place for a reason. The proposed site, is a **Wetland in a flood plain**. Businesses that have attempted to build on the site in the past were denied by the county because the zoning would not allow it! It frequently floods in the winter to the point of water flowing across Highway 99 and flooding people's homes and businesses. The proposed site is also directly next to a residential neighborhood zoned RR2. The LandWatch Lane County representatives who claimed that it is not, would be most assuredly be enlightened by all the folks who actually live there! Who wants the smell, flies, and rodents that close to their homes? Also, please consider the huge reduction in property values for those families. In addition, the proposed site is around 1,200 feet up-wind from a school for children.

The cost of this will easily exceed \$200 million. During this time of runaway inflation, this is fiscally poor timing for all parties concerned!

Some claim that out of state businesses are behind the opposition to this bill. The truth is, that what three **Lane county** commissioners are attempting has been found to be ILLEGAL under current law by an independent arbitrator. ILLEGAL. Again, the existing laws are in place for a reason. To attempt to circumvent them by this bill is completely irresponsible. This is absolutely NOT an emergency and the circumstances around this bill in no way constitute a threat to the public peace, health or safety!

I urge you to vote no on this bill.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tom Dietrich