

I am writing to STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 3971 and respectfully request that you do not allow this bill to pass out of committee.

This law abuses the Emergency Clause; there is no emergency threat to public peace or safety.

- According to Lane County's own consultants, their Short Mountain landfill has at least 70 years of remaining capacity, allowing enough time for careful site selection of any future waste diversion/gas reclaiming projects.
- This bill was submitted solely to allow Lane County to circumvent the law and build its garbage handling facility adjacent to the Goshen residential district after the county's special use permit was soundly denied by the Land Use Hearing Committee's arbitrator.
- The emergency clause was used to bypass public and legislature scrutiny.

This law is an affront to all the achievements Oregon has made in land use planning, environmental safety, and public voice.

- This bill requires that a county MUST approve any land use request for a materials and energy recovery facility, if it meets criteria, *regardless* of any *state or local* land use regulation, zoning laws, or planning goals currently in place.
- The county is *not* required to offer any public hearing. The public is denied any appeal as they would be liable for the county's legal fees and so cannot afford to appeal.

Most concerning, this law promotes poor siting of waste diversion/gas recovery facilities to the peril of local communities and the environment. Lane County's proposed Clean Lane/IMERF (CL) project is a perfect example of this. The proposed site is completely unsuitable for waste handling.

- CL is sited to be built directly adjacent to my residential community, extending clear to the lot lines of many residents. Odors from open-air handling, rodent and insect infestations, compost fires, and decreased property values threaten the my local community.
- CL is sited for land with extremely poor soil drainage. The majority of neighboring residents are supplied drinking water from wells. For recent septic improvements in the area, the county has required above ground sand filtration systems and capped wells. Leachate from waste handling or runoff from flooding pose potential community health risks for us.
- CL is sited on a wetland which floods every winter. Diverted watershed threatens our local residential community and the adjacent rivers.
- CL is sited to be built within 1200 feet of our local school.
- CL's only access is a narrow stretch of Hwy 99 with no passing or turn lanes and no shoulder to widen. Fatalities have already occurred and "no-pass" stripes have recently been placed along the entire stretch of road from Goshen to Creswell. The road is not suited for the *immense* increase in large truck traffic. Road flooding, most notably seen at the entrance to the proposed CL site, exacerbates the problem.
- The proposed CL site is opposed by not only the local Goshen residents, but also by neighboring residents and businesses along the stretch of Hwy 99 between Short

Mountain and the site. Over 1600 signatures in opposition were presented to the Lane County Commissioners.

- The proposed CL site is zoned L1, which lawfully prohibits waste handling facilities.
- There is a better solution available to save the county from their financial predicament. The county can move the CL site to the existing Short Mountain landfill only a mile away. This would eliminate a significant amount of public objection and threat.

This bill is not needed.

- Lane County already has the highest recycling rate in the state at 51%. Lane County has already met the 10% diversion increase goals with many local collectors now dumping at Jackson County due to more cost effective tipping fees. This has increased the life of Short Mountain by another 20 plus years. This is even without the Oregon Modernization Act changes scheduled to start this July.
- Methane gas is already being captured and effectively used to offset utility costs by the Emerald Public Utility Company, and their new system gets very close to the 90% recapture rate already without investing 178 million plus cost. Investing in expansion of those recapture systems would be a win-win for the Oregon, both increasing their already significant recapture rates and reducing energy costs for Lane County residents. Good for the environment, good for the economy.

More personally, I want to emphasize that Goshen *is* a residential community, with a church, fire department, school, and homes with real families working hard to preserve their community. The adjacent Clean Lane/IMERF proposal site is zoned for light industrial, which would be suitable near our homes and aligns with the Great Goshen development plan already on the books. It is not suitable, however, for a waste handling facility. I've made this area my home for 30 years, and the thought of permeating waste odors, contaminated watershed, or pulling into traffic on Hwy 99 with an estimated additional 100-200 large trucks a day is terrifying. We need recycling and gas recapture, but there are better ways to get it than steamrolling your local families with an over-reaching super siting bill.

Please vote NO on HB 3971.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Sarah Dietrich

