

Submitter: Beatrice Dohrn
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3971
Testimony in Support of HB 3971 - CleanLane Solid Waste Resource Recovery

Chair Bowman and Members of the Committee,

I urge you to support the CleanLane facility by passing HB 3971, which clears a land use pathway for construction of the CleanLane Resource Recovery Facility. This bill is necessary because the zoning code developed for this area never envisioned innovative solid waste facilities that contain multiple components for waste processing. CleanLane involves multiple waste diversion elements including recycling processing, which is already an allowed use. However, other waste diversion technologies such as anaerobic digestion fall into a grey area that this bill clarifies.

CleanLane is designed to recover valuable resources from waste, significantly reducing the amount of material sent to landfills while improving our environmental sustainability. This project is a huge step forward for responsible materials management in Oregon and serves a model for other counties in the Willamette Valley finding solid waste solutions.

Reduction in Landfill Waste: CleanLane is projected to reduce Short Mountain landfill waste by 80,000 tons annually, extending the landfill's lifespan and benefiting our community for years to come.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction: The facility will capture more recyclables and convert methane gas into renewable natural gas (RNG) through an anaerobic digester, resulting in a remarkable 57% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. This is equivalent to taking 20,000 to 30,000 cars off the road each year.

Local Economic Development: Bulk Handling Systems, a local company with 48 years of experience, is contributing 70% of the CleanLane project costs. This partnership not only showcases cutting-edge technology but also enhances employment opportunities locally and demonstrates a commitment to sustainable business practices.

Innovation in Waste Management: CleanLane utilizes a proven method for efficiently handling solid waste, ensuring that recyclables are captured and processed effectively. This aligns with Lane County's state mandated target of achieving a 63% recovery rate by 2025, currently at 49.7%.

The benefits of CleanLane extend far beyond environmental impact; they promise to foster economic growth, improve public health, and create a model for sustainable waste management that can be replicated in other communities.

I urge you to prioritize this initiative by reducing bureaucratic obstacles that may impede the progress of the Clean Lane facility. Our community is counting on its leaders to make forward-thinking decisions that align with our values of sustainability and innovation.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your support for HB 3971 and a greener future for all Oregonians.

Sincerely, Beatrice Dohrn