

I live in the Goshen vicinity and I am strongly opposed to HB 3971.

My home is less than a mile from the proposed Clean Lane garbage handling site in Goshen. Every day I have to enter into traffic on Hwy 99 just a quarter mile from the entrance to the Clean Lane site. The road is narrow, with no-passing lines, no turn lanes, and no shoulder to widen the road. The speed limit is 55 mph. It is often foggy and the section of the road closest to the Clean Lane entrance is flooded every year.

The thought of trying to enter and travel this section of road with an additional one to two hundred garbage trucks a day stopping to turn into the garbage site within a quarter mile of my entrance to the road is alarming. It's a public safety hazard.

Then there is the significant increase in my utility bills planned due to the closure of the methane recapture facility EPUD runs at Short Mountain a mile up the road. Trading one very efficient methane recapture site that lowers the utility bill for over 23000 homes in Lane County for another one that costs us increased utility and garbage hauling fees doesn't make sense. The millions of dollars being spent on Clean Lane could better be spent addressing the housing shortage for young adults such as me, or expanding the methane recapture already in place at Short Mountain.

Because my home is across the road from the proposed Goshen site, I wasn't even informed by the county of the public hearings about the garbage handling site. Neither were all the folks that as a direct result of Clean Lane will see an increase in their utility rates or have to deal with the inevitable dumping and pollution caused from people resorting to burning their own trash. You can bet our homes will be adversely affected by the smell as well.

Now, after the Land Use Hearing arbitrator has ruled that a special use permit for the Goshen garbage handling site would be unlawful, the Lane County commissioners are totally betraying the public trust by pushing a bill that will completely deny the people most affected by these projects from having any voice in the decisions and circumvent the lawful ruling. A government for the people cannot in good conscience silence the people or ignore its laws.

This bill is overreaching and I strongly urge you to consider your role in protecting the people and our carefully considered land use planning and vote no on House Bill 3971.

Thank you for allowing my testimony,

Benjamin Dietrich