

Submitter: James Babson
On Behalf Of: LandWatch Lane County
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3971

Dear Chair Bowman and members of the committee,

I urge you to support HB 3971 which would allow a much-needed upgrade to Lane County's recycling systems. The proposed state-of-the-art facility would divert over 80,000 tons of waste from the local landfill, extending the life of the landfill by 20 years. The new facility would sort and bundle recyclables for sale as commodities. It would produce renewable energy from biogas at a time when climate change demands that we reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. It would create hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars of economic activity.

The opposition to this crucial project is being spearheaded by Sanipac and their parent company, Waste Connections, Inc., an international trash-hauling conglomerate based in Texas. Sanipac turned against the project after they failed to win the contract to build and run the new facility. They are now spreading misinformation to frame the project as controversial and divisive. They are even trucking garbage 167 miles (one way) to a landfill they own near Medford in an effort to deny Lane County fees that could help fund the facility. Waste Connections is solely concerned with maximizing profit and eliminating competition.

Please support HB 3971 to ensure that local governments can act on behalf of the public good and the environment.

Thank you for considering my comments.

James Babson
LandWatch Lane County