

In regard to House Bill 3971:

My name is Shanna Swezey. I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Goshen homeowner and resident. I am a progressive democrat, and for me, this bill is a non-partisan issue. I have lived in Goshen for seven years. I oppose HB3971 and the proposed building of Lane County's CleanLane Resource Recovery Facility.

Goshen is a diverse and hard-working community. We have a disproportionate number of low-income, disabled individuals, and individuals living on fixed incomes. Our community would be hit hardest by this project, including but not limited to energy and waste management price increases, decreases to our home values, and increased air and noise pollution, all of which will affect our health and quality of life.

Goshen is already geographically disadvantaged; we are situated between I-5 and Highway 99. Short Mountain—Lane County's landfill— located in Goshen, is 1.8 miles from our town center. Now, Lane County is proposing the building of a second waste management and recycling facility be built in Goshen, and less than 1 mile from our town center.

Research shows the deleterious effects on people living, working and learning within 500 to 1,000 feet of highways. They are disproportionately subject to dirty air and loud ambient noise. This, in turn, causes health problems, including lung disease, stroke, and premature birth. Roadways also tend to reduce property values of nearby residences. House Bill 3971 and the building of CleanLane would decrease our air quality with pollution from plant operations itself, and significantly increased hauler traffic to and from the site, unequivocally increasing our community's exposure to dirty air, which is already an issue for us. It would also decrease our property values.

Additionally, and importantly, Goshen residents were not consulted, nor did we have the opportunity to vote on this issue. This is a gross example of the influence of privileged individuals in positions power coming into a disenfranchised community and pushing an agenda to build a 150 million-dollar waste-management facility with little regard to how it will affect Goshen residents. This demonstrates a complete lack of respect for the dignity, health and welfare of Goshen residents.

I would like to ask you to think how you'd respond if someone came into your neighborhood, almost your backyard, and told you they were going to build a waste management facility there, and you don't get to vote on the issue, and your voice doesn't matter, and it also doesn't matter if it affects your livelihood, well-being, home value (which can have a generational impact), health or quality of life.

This is exactly what is happening to our town of Goshen.

The message we're getting here, symbolically and literally, is that we are "trash" and our voices don't matter.

I urge you to consider this, and the impact this bill will have on Goshen residents, and vote no on HB3971.

Respectfully,
Shanna Swezey