

Submitter: Shane Ruddell
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3971

1. Bypasses Land Use Laws

Overrides Lane County's own land use zoning, which prohibits the proposed garbage processing and gas facility.

The project was already denied by a County hearings officer due to zoning violations and community opposition.

2. Environmental Catastrophe

Requires filling 11 acres of wetlands on land that floods with light rain.

Puts public health at risk by placing hazardous waste and gas infrastructure in a floodplain next to a Willamette River tributary.

EPA maps already designate the property as flood-prone, and there's no FEMA flood mapping to evaluate risk properly.

3. Ignores Community Plans

Contradicts the Goshen GREAT Plan, a carefully developed and community-supported land use plan.

That plan explicitly prohibits waste-related development in the area near Short Mountain Landfill to protect the environment and nearby residents.

4. Disregards Environmental Justice

Site is near a school serving disadvantaged youth (only 400 feet away).

Adds to the burden in a community already impacted by landfills and major electrical infrastructure.

5. Rewards Irresponsibility

Lane County commissioners made premature contractual commitments without zoning approval—this bill bails them out.

Sets a dangerous statewide precedent: counties can ignore due diligence, hoping the legislature will clean up after them.

6. Silences Community Input

Undermines public participation in the land use process.

Contains one-way attorney fees favoring the County/private developer—punishing affected community members for speaking up.