

Submitter:	Trey Harbick
On Behalf Of:	Lane county resident
Committee:	House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB3971

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to House Bill 3971. This bill, currently under consideration in Salem, poses a serious threat to the health, safety, and integrity for the community in Goshen and sets a dangerous precedent for how we handle zoning, environmental policy, and public engagement in Lane County.

HB 3971 seeks to override local zoning laws to allow the construction of a recycling facility—handling garbage and potentially hazardous materials—on sensitive wetland property that is known to flood. This is not just irresponsible planning; it is an environmental stewardship disaster in the making like Representative Harbick said.

Our wetlands are essential for flood control, water quality, and local biodiversity. Allowing this development to move forward not only threatens these natural systems but puts nearby residents at risk. It raises major concerns about groundwater contamination, long-term health impacts, and degraded habitat for wildlife.

What's more, this bill was introduced with minimal notice and virtually no community input. The residents of Goshen—and all of Lane County—deserve transparency and a voice in decisions that directly impact their environment, health, and property values.

HB 3971 could result in higher garbage fees for Lane County residents. Taxpayers should not have to bear the cost of bad policy decisions, especially when those decisions were made behind closed doors and against the will of the people.

I urge you to reject House Bill 3971. We must protect our wetlands, respect local zoning authority, and prioritize thoughtful, inclusive policymaking that genuinely reflects the needs and values of the communities affected.

Thank you for your time and consideration.