



# VANESSA CORNWALL

Intergovernmental Relations Officer

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*Legislative Concept*

**Proposal: Support HB 3971 to supersite the CleanLane project to deliver environmentally friendly, sound solutions to solid waste issues in the Willamette Valley for the 21st century.**



**Local Open Space advocates agree that this is the perfect use of super siting, including:**



## Sponsors

- Chief Sponsors: Representative Fragala and Senator Prozanski
- Regular Sponsors: Representative Nathanson, and Senator Manning Jr



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## Background

- In 2015, the Legislature passed SB 263 increasing solid waste recovery rates across Oregon – and DEQ finalized regulations in 2018. In 2023, Lane County Board of Commissioners voted to build a state of the art recycling facility in Goshen, then called an IMERF
- In response, Lane County has responded with an innovative project that will push diversion rates well past 60%, significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and extend the life of the largest remaining publicly owned landfill west of the Cascades by 20%.
- This was developed in partnership with Bulk Handling Systems, an Oregon-based company with a global reach. The two-year construction project is creating 190 high-paying manufacturing jobs during construction and 65 ongoing family wage jobs for the operation of the facility for the next 25 years. The project has over \$270 million in positive economic impact for Oregon
- Solid waste disposal facilities in the Willamette Valley, such as Coffin Butte, are quickly running out of capacity.
- **One of the big solutions already in motion to help solve these issues in an environmentally responsible manner is now threatened by opposition forces.**

## Proposal Specifics, Support, & Environmental Impacts

- The proposed language in HB 3971 is only about supersiting this 21st Century solution facing 20th Century land use zoning codes. It does not skip or avoid any environmental or other required permitting.
- The CleanLane project involves the development of an Integrated Materials and Energy Recovery Facility (IMERF) on industrially zoned property already owned by Lane County.
- An IMERF uses modern technology and equipment for mixed waste processing, sorting lines for processing commingled recycling, and an anaerobic digester to produce biogas from diverted organic waste. enhances recycling, reduces the flow of waste into the landfill, reduces overall carbon emissions from solid waste, and captures methane for energy production.
- The State of Oregon sees the immense value of CleanLane and has already invested \$32 million through Business Oregon to secure loans for the building of the equipment necessary for the CleanLane project.

## Challenges

- Solid waste haulers in opposition to CleanLane have taken actions that threaten to functionally terminate the project at its inception, costing millions of public dollars already invested. Those actions include:
  - Waste Connections diverting solid waste out of Lane County to deny the minimum flow of solid waste necessary to make the project economically viable and sustainable (see recent article in Eugene Weekly);
  - Waste Connections is stalling the project through land use appeals which, at best, will take years to resolve. Based on a recent decision of a hearings officer denying CleanLane a land use permit, it may not even be possible to site an IMERF in Lane County or anywhere in Oregon, due to the 21st Century IMERF technology not being contemplated or allowed in any zone when land use zoning codes were adopted in the 20th Century.