

Submitter:

Nicholas Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3971

Good morning,

I currently serve as the Mayor of Creswell but am writing today on behalf of myself to strongly oppose House Bill 3971, which would permit the supersiting of mixed waste processing facilities like the proposed CleanLane project. This legislation poses a direct threat to our community's autonomy, economic stability, and environmental well-being, and I urge you to reject it. Far too many risks to endorse.

HB 3971 would allow government entities to override local zoning and permitting processes to fast-track waste processing facilities. This undermines the trust our residents place in Creswell's ability to shape our own future. Our city's planning framework is built on transparency and public input, ensuring developments serve the common good. By stripping away local control, this bill risks imposing projects that could degrade our quality of life and disrupt our small-town values.

The CleanLane project, tied to this bill, is particularly concerning. Its high costs would likely burden Lane County taxpayers and small businesses, cripple local and small communities, as well as siphoning funds from critical needs like road maintenance or public safety. Creswell's families are already stretched thin—adding new financial pressures for a project with unclear benefits is simply unacceptable. Moreover, the environmental risks of mixed waste facilities, including potential air and water contamination, could jeopardize our region's natural resources, which our community relies on for both livelihood and recreation.

What's more, Lane County's pursuit of CleanLane, despite Creswell's objections, signals a disregard for regional partnership. Our city has consistently championed collaborative projects that benefit all of Lane County, yet this initiative feels like a top-down imposition. Our residents deserve leaders who prioritize shared goals over divisive, costly schemes. Citizens deserve the same effort towards their well being as representatives, and senators are to efforting citizens tax dollars. A more laser focus approach to common sense outcome, and not just ideals will engineer an accomplished collaborative goal we can all be proud of.

HB 3971 is a step in the wrong direction. It erodes local authority, strains our economy, and risks our environment without delivering clear value to Creswell or Lane County. I call on you to vote against this bill and protect our community's right to determine its own path. Allow local cities to work together to blaze a new trail

instead of the old trails left behind. A 10,000 foot view is helpful. However, boots on the ground evoke a more intimate approach and a direct line of sight a 10,000 view can not see. I believe HB 3971 is doing just that.

Thank you for considering my testimony. Please hear our voice, small cities are not feeling heard in the current legislative climate.

All the best,

Nick Smith

Creswell