

Submitter:

Sylvia Ronning

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3971

My name is Sylvia Ronning, and I've lived next to the proposed CleanLane Facility site in Goshen for 40 years. I'm here to oppose HB 3971, which would steamroll the land use process we fought and won to protect our community. We followed the rules, raised real concerns, and succeeded—yet the state wants to ignore our victory and force this facility on us. Why? Why not put it at Short Mountain Landfill, a place already built for waste? I've talked to folks there, and they don't understand it either.

This facility will ruin our lives. The smell from sorting garbage will make our air unbreathable—my family can't live with that stench. Sorting batteries and hazardous waste risks explosions and fires. We've seen these disasters elsewhere—why put our homes in danger? Worse, they're not cleaning the wastewater. It'll pollute our creeks, ponds, and wetlands, especially during floods. The ducks and deer I used to see are gone. Our fishermen can't fish, we can't grow vegetables, and our animals—wild or domestic—are at risk. This pollution could kill everything around here. This property is also home to a vital under the road wildlife crossing.

Then there's the traffic. Goshen's roads can't handle endless trucks. I've seen plenty of accidents here over 40 years, and 10 times the traffic means 10 times the crashes and deaths. Trucks and cars kick up stones that can hurt people—bicyclists, walkers, and us elderly and disabled folks trying to stay safe. We're vulnerable and need more protection, not less. This pollution will choke us faster, and nobody's talking about widening roads or cleaning our wells. Are they giving us city water? Nothing's planned to help us.

And the notification? Almost nobody knew about this. I had to hand out pamphlets with a few others just to spread the word. Why the secrecy? We're too old for this fight, but we're begging you: don't hinder us, help us. Put this facility at Short Mountain, where it's safer for people and our livelihoods. Reject HB 3971, respect our land use victory, and protect our community from smells, fires, pollution, and traffic dangers. Thank you.