

Submitter:

Brett Cain

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3971

Chair Bowman, Vice Chairs Drazan and Pham, and committee members. My name is Brett Cain, and I'm a farmer from Coburg, where my land sits right by the Willamette River. I'm here to urge you to vote against HB 3971, a bill that would force counties to approve mixed-waste facilities on certain lands in the Willamette Valley.

This bill hits close to home. If it passes, Lane County would have to green-light a waste facility right next to my farm. That's a disaster waiting to happen. Pollution, odors, and runoff could poison my crops, harm my livestock, and threaten the Willamette River we depend on for irrigation. My family and I have worked hard to care for this land, and a waste facility would undo everything we've built. The Willamette Valley is Oregon's agricultural heart—Oregon has a goal of protecting farmland, what has changed? Why pass this bill that sacrifices our land use values that for waste facilities?

Let me share something else. For over a year, I've been fighting Lane County just to get a permit for a small shed for my wife's boutique flower business. It's a simple project, good for our our family and will allow us to sell more flower, yet the county's dragged its feet every step of the way. But now, this bill from Lane County to rush through permits for something as harmful as a waste facility? That's not fair. Small farmers and businesses like ours are stuck in red tape, while this bill paves the way for industrial projects that could ruin our land.

Please, reject HB 3971. Protect our farms, our rivers, and our communities. Let local voices, not state mandates, decide what happens to our land. Thank you.