

Submitter: Shane Ruddell
On Behalf Of: Lane County Farm Bureau
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3971
May 22, 2025

House Committee on Rules
Oregon Legislature

RE: Oppose HB 3971

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Drazan, Vice-Chair Pham, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Lane County Farm Bureau and the 313 farm and ranch families we represent, I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to House Bill 3971, including the -1 and -2 amendments.

While the amended language now applies exclusively to Lane County, the bill remains deeply problematic. It requires approval of a specific industrial-scale waste facility—regardless of local zoning, planning goals, or public input—and attempts to exempt that approval from Oregon’s land use review system. The amendments do little to address the core concern: this bill still uses state legislative authority to force a local outcome.

This is an unmistakable example of supersiting. It seeks to circumvent the ability of local citizens and governing bodies to evaluate the proposal on its merits. Decisions about local land use issues in Lane County should be made by the people and institutions of Lane County—not imposed by the Legislature under the cover of an emergency clause and introduced late in the session when good faith public involvement is challenging at best.

Even if targeted narrowly, this bill sets a dangerous precedent. It sends a clear signal that any politically favored project can override local land use protections with a statute tailor-made for a single purpose. That kind of precedent threatens the stability of Oregon’s planning system and undermines public trust.

Lane County producers are proud of our contributions to Oregon’s agricultural economy, and we work hard to preserve the land and communities that make that possible. HB 3971 moves in the opposite direction. We respectfully urge you to reject this bill.

Sincerely,

Shane Ruddell
President
Lane County Farm Bureau