

House Bill 3971
May 21, 2025

Overview

House Bill 3971 creates a special carve out for Lane County to super site land use applications for solid-waste and recycling facilities.

Impact

HB 3971 changes the existing process for Lane County from one of transparency and local authority to one of super siting authority, eliminating years of public input and engagement, and impacting a local issue that has been moving through the existing land use process for the last several months.

In effect, HB 3971 attempts to bypass the existing process for an issue of local concern that is pending before the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA). It would allow Lane County to override their own County hearings officer's land use decision and dismiss any previous input from the public, private partners and cities throughout Lane County who have engaged on the issue.

Concerns

- This is a local issue – and should remain a local issue.
- If this is of statewide concern, there should be a more inclusive policy conversation with all stakeholders involved (local governments, haulers, processors, state agencies).
- The current process should be allowed to continue – and allow LUBA to rule.
- Changing the rules for land use applications and eliminating an appeals process in the middle of an active application undermines the state land use system.

Position

House Bill 3971 is not the solution. It changes the rules in the middle of an application process, creates uncertainty for businesses, and excludes the public voice and input in land use decisions that impact their community.

