

LANDFILL METHANE EMISSIONS

SB 726: DEPLOY TECHNOLOGY TO BETTER FIND AND FIX HARMFUL EMISSIONS, BOOST ENERGY RESOURCE RECOVERY

CHIEF SPONSORS:

Senators Gelser Blouin, Taylor, Manning Jr.

CO-SPONSORS :

Senator Patterson, Representatives Andersen, Fragala, Gamba, McDonald

SB 726 will enable better and more effective capture of methane gas and reduce harmful emissions at landfills. Fixing undetected methane leaks increases the capacity of landfill operators to capture more gas and use that resource to generate increased amounts of energy from renewable natural gas.

CHALLENGES OREGON IS TACKLING

- **Hiding in Plain Sight:** Recent studies by Carbon Mapper and the U.S. EPA and NASA have shown that fugitive landfill methane emissions are far higher than previously thought. **Example:** U.S. EPA inspections uncovered methane exceedances at Oregon landfills, including "explosive" levels over 100,000 parts per million at Benton County's Coffin Butte landfill.
- **Methane's Climate Impact:** Landfills are the third largest source of human-generated methane, a super greenhouse gas (GHG) approximately 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide in short-term climate warming.
- **Urgency:** Reducing methane emissions is one of the most impactful actions we can take in the short term to slow climate change.
- **Additional Harmful Pollutants:** Methane plumes also release health-harming pollutants that are present in the trash as it breaks down over time and escape with the methane, such as nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, hydrogen sulfide, toluene and PFAS (the "forever chemical").

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS IN SB 726

- **Expand Monitoring Technology:** Deploy drones and advanced monitoring tech to detect methane plumes across landfills. This technology is critical to address the U.S. EPA enforcement alert reporting "widespread shortcomings" in monitoring efforts at landfills, including emissions as high as 200 times the regulatory limit.
- **Improve Data Sharing and Efficiency:** Require monitoring data to be submitted in a spatial data format to DEQ which is more efficient, reduces staff time to review reports, and saves money.
- **Facilitate Methane Leak Repairs:** Enable landfills to quickly identify and repair malfunctioning gas collection systems.
- **Boost Renewable Energy Resources:** Fix undetected methane leaks helps landfills capture more gas (rather than it being released to the atmosphere) and use that resource to generate more energy from renewable natural gas to heat and cool local homes and businesses.

ADDRESSING LANDFILL METHANE WILL:

- **Combat climate change** and delay near-term climate tipping points.
- **Reduce toxic air pollutants** to protect public health.
- **Enhance Oregon's leadership** to use standard, modern technology to improve methane capture and generate more renewable energy from landfills.

SUPPORT SB 726 TO PROTECT OREGONIANS FROM LANDFILL METHANE EMISSIONS!

