

## Smith Holly

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**From:** Susan Meredith <sameredith@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 15, 2017 4:09 PM  
**To:** HEE Exhibits; Rep Nosse; Sen Taylor  
**Cc:** Sen Boquist; Rep Nearman  
**Subject:** HB 2669 testimony - March 20 HEEC hearing

>>  
>> Please submit the testimony below to the House Environment and Energy Committee meeting on March 20, 2017 at 3 pm.  
>> Thank you,  
>> Susan Meredith  
>> McMinnville, OR. 97128  
>>>

>>> Dear Rep. Nosse and Sen. Taylor,  
>>> I have learned that you are sponsors of HB266, a bill which seeks to implement legislation that will enable our cities and counties in Oregon to force polluters to collect toxic emission data on chemicals that facilities emit unknown quantities of chemicals into the air surrounding their facilities. In addition the data would be compiled into a database accessible to the public. I support this legislation.

>>> However, it is my understanding that your bill addresses ONLY those facilities that are currently unregulated in Oregon and where known quantities of chemicals go into such facilities but currently is no way of knowing what quantity is later released into the air. Unfortunately this current definition does not apply to facilities such as landfills that are also KNOWN polluters of noxious, and often toxic, substances into our air. Thus, landfills currently don't qualify under your bill because there is no way to know definitively exactly what goes into a landfill. Lack of this information should not disqualify these facilities, or any others that fall into the same category, from benefitting from the opportunity for our cities and towns implement legislation permitting them to force landfill operators to install air monitoring and create a publicly-accessible data base of the test results.

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>>> Our local community, McMinnville, offers a perfect example of why this change in your legislation is necessary and the bill needs to be amended prior to passage:

>>> Riverbend Landfill, owned and operated by Waste Management, Inc., Houston,TX, is located just two miles outside the city limits of McMinnville, a city of 35,000 residents. Riverbend's location allows the prevailing air currents from the S/SW to blow over the entire dump (the working face as well as over the more than 100 acre wasteland of rotting trash that does not yet have "permanent cover" over it) and pick up whatever contaminants are being released into the air from the dump. Based on DEQ's own records, Riverbend is already a "known polluter" based on its release of significant quantities of methane, CO2, complex H2S compounds and others which escape and are released into the air at the site. This airstream, containing its milieu of unknown toxic chemical components, then passes over two miles of crop-producing farmland between the dump and the city, and finally directly over McMinnville itself and its surroundings.

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>>> Although Riverbend has a "landfill gas collection system" which sucks up landfill gas (they claim as much as 90% based on EPA's "theoretical modeling"); however, there is NO scientific method available today to accurately to measure either how much or what the identity is of the gases that ESCAPE collection and are released into the air. People who live in close vicinity have reported cancers but there is no way to tie them to toxic air pollution from Riverbend without an epidemiological study, which we also need and don't have. However, the first step is to obtain unbiased air monitoring data on Riverbend's emissions (collected by an independent third-party) so we can accurately evaluate air pollution at Riverbend and require remediation if/as needed.

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>>> Although Riverbend is regulated under an Air Quality Permit issued by DEQ, during our 8+ years of working with them on this issue, we have found that they are helpless in assisting us/the community with this task. They have told us repeatedly that they currently DO NOT have the authority to require polluters to monitor air at their sites and that LEGISLATION IS REQUIRED for them to be able to enforce installation of air monitoring at sites such as Riverbend. Nor do they have the funds to do it. Thus, without legislative action, DEQ cannot intervene. However, if you INCLUDE facilities such as landfills in the language of HB2669, the cities and towns with landfill facilities will also benefit greatly from your action. We cannot do it on our own or we would have done it years ago!

>>> For example, we had a professional Air Quality engineer, whose business is helping communities and polluters deal with air pollution issues, speak to the issue of the need for air monitoring at facilities such as Riverbend at a public DEQ Air Quality meeting in order to facilitate a "good neighbor agreement" with Riverbend. DEQ's response was that they they "cannot force WM to install air monitoring" and DEQ does not have funds to do it. And, to no one's surprise Waste Management has no incentive to install air monitoring. In fact, they blatantly refused; Paul Burns, Waste Management Western Region VP, has stated that "they will only do something IF it is required" of them.

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>>> Thus, inclusion of landfills in this bill, as well as language allowing DEQ, in addition to cities and towns, to force installation of air monitoring at facilities with identified polluters would provide the much-needed legal requirement to force air monitoring installations at sites such as Riverbend at their own expense, with no expense to the state or DEQ. Otherwise, the public will NEVER have access to this critical public health and safety information. We deserve better.

>>> I urge you to consider my suggested amendments. I hope you will be successful in getting this legislation passed, not only for those of us living in the "pollution zone surrounding Riverbend Landfill", but for everyone in Oregon who also has the misfortune of being subjected to airborne chemical toxins from known polluters simply because of where they live and, worse yet, not even knowing that it is happening. Thank you.

>>>

>>> Respectfully submitted,

>>> Susan Meredith

>>> McMinnville, OR. 97128

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>>> Sent from Susan's iPad