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Helping to shape the use of our natural resources to protect the quality of life in Yamhill County.

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Friends of Yamhill County (FYC) works to protect natural resources through the implementation of land use planning goals, policies, and laws that maintain and improve the present and future quality of life in Yamhill County for both urban and rural residents. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on HB2669.

It is our understanding HB2669, as written, provides an opportunity for Oregon cities and towns to implement requirements for facilities in their jurisdiction which are currently unregulated by the state to install air monitoring at these sites. The stated purpose is to build a publicly-accessible database so the public will know what and how much, if any, toxic materials are polluting their air. Currently no air pollution information is available from such sites.

Given that the current bill addresses *only* facilities that are unregulated *and* which have a known quantity of chemical materials entering and being emitted as a result of a production process, it overlooks a *significant* source of air pollution in Oregon: **landfills**. Landfills are *known polluters*; they release large quantities of methane, CO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>S, sulfur oxides; however only *a very small* number of the wide range of other possibly toxic chemicals that could be released into the air are monitored by DEQ. DEQ has no legal authority to require any landfill to install air monitoring and landfills have no incentive to do so themselves.

Airborne emissions occur at landfills because landfill gas collection systems are not able to collect 100% of the emissions coming off the landfill; what the system does not collect is then emitted into the air. Unfortunately, it currently is impossible to identify potential toxic substances entering, let alone being emitted, from, a landfill. Air monitoring of landfill emissions, however, *would* expose the identity and quantity of any number of known harmful chemicals being released into the air stream and provide the basis for a much-needed public database of information. HB2669 is our best and only hope for achieving our goal of knowing what we are being exposed to in landfill emissions..

The lack of information regarding what is going *into* the landfill is not a valid reason for this class of "known air polluters" to be disqualified from inclusion in this pending legislation. This a public health and safety issue all across Oregon, and should not exclude *any air pollution source*. The most important issue is: *what is coming out of a facility in to the airstream* and the legislation should not be limited to facilities where knowledge of the amount of the substance going in is known and exclude all others.

Our county currently hosts a 12+ million ton landfill spread over nearly 100 acres of farmland and sitting on the banks of a major Willamette River tributary. The population of our cities and county needs this air pollution legislation to address our “local polluter” just as much as any other county in Oregon, and maybe more than some of them.

I strongly urge you to consider amending HB2669 in order to allow our city and county governments the opportunity to require this landfill, as well as the others in the rest of the state, to install air monitoring equipment on these sites. ALL of us need and deserve to have a publicly- accessible data base of what the milieu of rotting waste at local landfills is spewing into our air and homes on a daily basis.

I hope you will be successful in getting this legislation passed, not only for those of us living in one of the "landfill air pollution zones", but for everyone in Oregon who also has the misfortune of being subjected to unknown quantities and identities of airborne chemical toxins being emitted from local facilities simply because of where they live and, worse yet, not even knowing that it is happening to them. This legislation is long overdue.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Meredith, Member  
Friends of Yamhill County Board