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Carlton, OR 97111

3 April, 2017

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 1036

Dear Chair Denbrow and Committee Members:

SB 1036 would exempt landfills from having to obtain a DOGAMI permit to mine more than 5,000 cu. yards of soil per year for use in landfill activities. This is an extremely bad idea. SB 1036 is a Special Interest bill that would benefit the largest garbage company in the world, Waste Management, to the detriment of the environment. Waste Management owns Riverbend Landfill, a leaking landfill in a severe seismic hazard zone, in the bend of the South Yamhill River that has already caused the destruction of hundreds of acres of some of Oregon's best farmland.

DEQ supposedly monitors Riverbend to assure the safety of landfill operations. For nine years, we have witnessed DEQ 's inability to curtail among other things: the dump's stench, E.coli and other toxic run-off , leachate leaks, thousands of crop-destroying seagulls, large amounts of blowing litter, and more.  
***Riverbend landfill does not need less oversight. It needs more oversight.***

Yamhill County needs DOGAMI to monitor Riverbend Landfill in order to prevent wholesale destruction of the land around the dump. DOGAMI requires that applicants file and ultimately complete a reclamation plan. This is the only way to guarantee that the multi-national corporation that owns Riverbend will not add to the environmental disaster than they have already created in Yamhill County .

Because of Riverbend's location in a floodplain, surrounded by sensitive wetlands and streams, mining of the soil must not be allowed without strict oversight. Make no mistake, if SB 1036 passes, Waste Management will have no qualms about removing hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of dirt from sensitive riparian areas and high quality farmland in order to perform landfill operations.

Perhaps other landfills will not take advantage of this special interest give-away, but as someone who has watched Waste Management operate for many years, I am sure that without DOGAMI's involvement, Riverbend Landfill will destroy the surrounding wetlands while rendering valuable farmland useless once all the topsoil has been mined off of it.

The last thing Oregon needs to do is loosen what few protections we have. Please vote NO on SB 1036.

Respectfully,



Ilsa Perse