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**Before the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction
Testimony regarding HB 2020
February 23rd, 2019**

Testimony of Laura Leebrick, Community & Governmental Affairs Manager
Rogue Waste, Inc./Dry Creek Landfill, Inc.

Thank you, Co-Chairs and Committee members for making the long trip to Southern Oregon, and for giving our community a chance to provide testimony on this important piece of legislation.

My name is Laura Leebrick, and I am here to speak on behalf of Dry Creek Landfill, our state-of-the-art regional landfill located here in Jackson County. The Rogue Waste family of companies, of which Dry Creek Landfill is a member, are local to the Rogue Valley and family-owned, and in fact we just celebrated our 80th year of providing environmentally sound solid waste management services to the communities we serve.

In its current form, we oppose House Bill 2020. However, we would support creating a Critical Public Service path under the Cap & Trade program for municipal solid waste landfills that *acknowledges that landfills exist solely to protect public health, safety and the environment, and establishes Oregon as a leader in capturing and reducing landfill methane emissions.*

Unlike California's Cap & Trade program, where landfills are excluded from regulation, HB 2020 would include active landfills in Oregon. While there are currently exemptions in the bill for closed landfills, landfill biogas used for production of renewable energy, and for solid waste-incinerators, active landfills in Oregon would be subject to the Cap for their fugitive emissions. As they no doubt acknowledged in California, fugitive emissions are difficult to measure accurately, and modern active landfills are already highly engineered to capture as much biogas as possible, utilizing the very best available control technologies.

Most landfills in Oregon are already harnessing the captured methane for renewable energy generation. At Dry Creek Landfill, we currently produce 3.2 megawatts of renewable power annually, and our next phase of development will be to utilize one hundred percent of our methane to produce super low carbon intensity, renewable natural gas equivalent to 3.6 million diesel gallons per year – for the next 100+ years, contributing greatly to the region's energy resiliency well into the future. Clearly, Dry Creek Landfill has demonstrated that it considers landfill biogas a potentially valuable resource and is committed to maximizing its capture and beneficial use to the extent currently possible, and we have every reason to continue doing so.



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Dry Creek Landfill is not alone in its commitment to decreasing emissions – according to US EPA data, landfills in the US have reduced their emissions by 40% since 1990. In Oregon, specifically, even as the population grew by 5% between 2014 and 2017, Oregon landfills managed to decrease their GHG emissions by 17%. So at least in Oregon, we are doing a very good job, and are steadily headed in the right direction.

The danger of subjecting landfills to a Cap on fugitives is that it will make Oregon landfills less competitive, and solid waste currently being disposed of in our environmentally-advanced landfills may be exported to other states due to cost considerations, and to facilities that may not manage the potentially harmful by-products of solid waste as responsibly.

We are joined by our fellow landfill operators around Oregon in asserting that there should be a unique set of requirements under the Oregon Cap & Trade program that ensures they do their part but does not adversely impact their ability to perform the critical public service they currently provide to communities across Oregon. The goal should be to ensure that Oregon landfills are using Best Management Practices to collect the maximum amount of methane reasonably achievable and continue to be leaders in addressing climate change.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions. I would also be happy to set you up with a tour of our landfill any time you are interested.

Respectfully,

Laura Leebrick

Rogue Waste, Inc.
Dry Creek Landfill, Inc.
Medford, Oregon