

**Before the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction Testimony regarding HB 2020
March 1, 2019, The Dalles, Oregon**

Testimony of Timothy Logan, President, Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), Oregon Chapter

Joint Committee:

I reside in Beaverton, Oregon. I studied Environmental Science at the Pennsylvania State University. I wish to inform the committee that I am dedicated to environmental quality, job creation and the future of my 2 and 5-year-old daughters. I also perform accreditation for clients under the Oregon Clean Fuels Program (OCFP). I present this information to assure you that I support intelligent environmental legislation. But that's not why I'm here today.

SWANA is the leading organization in the solid waste management sector representing the interest of governments and private companies that are responsible for managing solid waste. We are over 10,000 members strong. The thing I am most proud of with SWANA is that we represent the entire value chain of solid waste management, from sustainable materials management/producer responsibility all the way through disposal. We are indeed very diverse. We do this primarily through education, advocacy, and outreach. As a matter of fact, I just got back from Boston last night from our national conference.

The stated mission statement of the SWANA Oregon Chapter is:

The Beaver Chapter of SWANA is an association made up of professionals from Oregon, Southern Idaho and Wyoming who are committed to managing solid waste as a resource through education, advocacy and outreach.

So, how do we do this? And why should anyone in this room care?

Well, firstly, humans are not designed to sort carbon containing wastes, so when we do so, we generally combust fossil fuels and thus increase our carbon footprint. Thankfully, we can rely on methanogens to break down carbon containing wastes to produce methane, these are some of the oldest bacteria on the planet. Of course, methane is the primary heating agent comprising natural gas.

Having supported the solid waste community since 2002, I can assure those in this room that landfills are a heavily regulated by the federal and state government. Landfills are already paying additional fees through the Cleaner Air Oregon and are facing future rate hikes. Also, having consulted to landfills throughout the world, I can confidently assure all in this room that our nation leads the world in sustainable solid waste management solutions.

Further, our own Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) has stated that 95-99% of GHG emissions on a life-cycle analysis (LCA) basis are emitted from a product BEFORE, not after its disposal, depending on the product. What this means is that conflating landfills as contributing to anthropogenic climate change really misses the mark – these are essentially shallow natural gas reserves.

Regarding Gilliam County, the last I checked this county had the second lowest rate of unemployment of any county in the state. I'd also like to add that Wasco County Landfill, outside of The Dalles, contributes over \$1mm per year from a per ton host fee to the Wasco County general fund for the

benefit of this community. If tons were to go elsewhere due to pass thru rate increases it would directly impact this community. Morrow County would be similarly impacted.

Oregon leads the nation in solid waste management having over 400 years of permitted disposal capacity - permitted! That's older than our country! I get excited thinking about this. Oregon imports more refuse than 49 other states. For each ton disposed in Oregon, almost \$2/ton goes directly to ODEQ to support programs that support all Oregonians. All of us.

So, why have I dedicated my career to the responsible use of biogas from landfills, dairies, and WWTP? Because it makes great sense.

The solid waste industry has lowered their LCA over the past thirty years, primarily owing to the cunning of the solid waste community. In fact, in 2017 our legislature, through Senate Bill 334, instructed the Oregon Department of Energy to quantify the amount of [RNG available to Oregonians](#). Why did our legislature take this step in 2017? And why spend resources creating this report when House Bill 2020 will further hamper the vast developments Oregon has made with respect to encouraging the development of RNG reserves?

Also, if House Bill 2020 indeed seeks to create an economic, market-based solution to curb environmental pollution, then, we must critically ask the legislature why the only solid waste incinerator in the state is exempt from this rule when over 90% of permitted landfills in Oregon generate electricity?

In its current form, SWANA Oregon opposes House Bill 2020. SWANA Oregon wishes to ensure that all solid waste management schemes are subject to the rule, to include incineration and anaerobic digestion. This market-based rule must allow the market to function – not to pick winners and losers in the market. I'd also like to point out that landfills were exempted from Cap and Trade legislation in California precisely because of the public benefit they provide. SWANA Oregon could, in principal, 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.*

Joint Committee, thanks for the opportunity to present the perspectives of the SWANA Oregon.

Timothy Logan