

Submitter: Lynda Orzen
On Behalf Of: SB630
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure: SB630

Senator Janeen Sollman, Chair
Senator Lynn Findley, Vice Chair
Senate Energy & Environment Committee

Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Findley, members of the committee, how ironic that our growing Oregon City, has a housing shortage and a huge former garbage dump at its north end that has sat just decomposing for 40 years. That land could, with public and private funding be cleaned up and turned into an asset. With creative thinking like Senator Mark Meek's bill, this pile of trash could be turned into a mixed-use development and provide over 500 housing units and thousands of jobs.

I am co-chair of the Three Rivers Artist Guild and Chair of the Friends of the Oregon City Library asking you to support SB 630 so that Oregon City and Oregon can show the nation how a former landfill site can be cleaned up and developed in an environmentally safe and sustainable way. I have lived in Oregon City for 30 years and have seen numerous developers want to transform the old garbage dump only to walk away because they could not get funding help to clean up the site which took in Portland Metro Area garbage for 14 years before it was closed.

This current developer has worked with this community for over three years to find out what are our needs now, and in the long term. They have worked with DEQ to envision what could be on this site and how it can be accomplished. They have established the cost of the clean-up and are working with state and federal agencies to get grants and pots of money to fill that clean up bucket. SB 630 would help fill that bucket.

If that site sits there as is, it will continue to degrade. What a waste (no pun intended) when a creative, public private partnership using all modern technology could work together and turn an old dump into a vibrant mixed-use development where people could live, work, and play and leave their cars at home.

I ask your support of SB 630 so that in the very near future those 62 acres at our north end will be a development to welcome visitors and residents to our inclusive area.

Lynda Orzen

