



# LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Heather Buch  
Ryan Ceniga  
Pat Farr  
David Loveall  
Laurie Trieger

May 5, 2023

Joint Ways and Means Committee, Subcommittee On Capital Construction  
Oregon Legislature  
Salem OR

Co-Chair Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair Representative Paul Holvey, and members of the Subcommittee:

The Lane County Board of Commissioners undertakes a deliberative process to identify and prioritize capital requests to the Oregon Legislature. On January 31, 2023, the Board unanimously adopted a slate of projects, including the Integrated Material and Energy Recovery Facility (IMERF) which will be located adjacent to the County's Short Mountain Landfill in Goshen.

We ask that your Subcommittee recommend \$15M in lottery backed bond revenue to the Committee on Joint Ways and Means as you finalize HB 5030.

The IMERF project is a \$105M project. Lane County has selected Bulk Handling System (BHS) as a partner in the project. BHS is a Eugene-based manufacturer that builds equipment to sort both solid waste and recycling streams to market based specifications. The emphasis for Lane County in this project was to evolve a new materials handling system to address the significant fugitive emissions of methane that arise from the Short Mountain Landfill. BHS will provide a system that will sort the organic fraction of incoming waste and divert those materials into a series of "digesters" that will allow for the capture of methane by managing an anaerobic composting process. That captured methane will be cleaned to become a marketable renewable natural gas.

The project came into fruition due to the County's finalization of its Climate Action Plan. In evolving that plan, the Short Mountain Landfill was identified as the organizations largest point source of greenhouse gas emissions, and indeed, it is the second largest point source emitter in the entirety of Lane County (second behind the International Paper paper mill in Springfield). This project will increase our capture rate of methane significantly and will augment a decades old system that captures methane only after it is generated from within the landfill.

The financing for this project will be assisted by upfront capital that Bulk Handling is providing, however, that capital will be paid off by Lane County through a 25 year operating agreement. Lane County remains responsible for the non-equipment portion of the project, and our request to the Legislature is based on minimizing the burden Lane County ratepayers will carry through their disposal and collection fees.

Sincerely,

Pat Farr, Chair