

Submitter: Janet Ohmann

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB726

Dear Senators-- I am writing in strong support of SB 726. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas, with 80 times the warming potential of CO<sub>2</sub>. Landfills are a huge contributor to methane pollution, and we will never make progress on slowing climate change if we allow methane emissions from landfills to continue at their current rate. I firmly believe that policy decisions should be based on sound science and data. Efforts to reduce methane emissions should begin with a solid assessment of the problem, so that any regulations and mitigation efforts (and costs) can be focused appropriately.

There have been huge advances in technology in measuring methane emissions. Sensors can now be mounted on drones, land-based equipment, and airborne (aboard aircraft, satellites, and other space-based systems). There is no longer any valid argument against employing these methods, given how accessible and affordable they have become.

I further argue that any monitoring of methane emissions should not be conducted by the entities that are responsible for emitting the pollutants, the landfill operators, as is currently the case. This is an obvious case of "the fox guarding the henhouse." In the case of Coffin Butte Landfill, ample evidence has recently emerged that actual methane emissions have been vastly underreported.

Thank you for your consideration. Janet Ohmann, PhD