

Submitter: Paul Carbaugh
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3971

I am strongly opposed to HB 3971. Oregon has been a national leader in Land Use and has crafted laws and regulations to protect lands and people from the damaging effects of dangerous usage. HB 3971 blatantly circumvents land use regulations by allowing a government body to do whatever they want on a piece of land that goes against the regulations for that piece of land. I realize the Bill states for a “mixed-waste facility” but this could open the door for expansion of this Bill in the future to include anything else a government body could want to build that goes against land use regulations. The Bill also states that no hearings would be required and that anyone challenging would be required to pay all attorney fees for the government. This is a bullying move against the people.

This Bill has been submitted by Lane County to circumvent their own zoning ordinance for a piece of land that they want to build a mixed-waste facility. An independent Hearings Official denied Lane County’s usage of that land through an appeal of concerned citizens and businesses because it violates Lane County ordinance LC 16.280. The land in question is 26 acres in the community of Goshen of which 22 acres is designated Wet Land and is subject to flooding. This is a Lane County issue, not a Willamette Valley or Salem issue.

HB 3971 is a bad Bill that could open up a “can of worms” in the future for Willamette Valley concerning land use regulations and ordinances. A government body cannot be granted the right to ignore land use regulations while the people must abide by them.