

## Testimony in Support of HB 3971 - CleanLane Solid Waste Resource Recovery

Chair Bowman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mark Yeager, and I am writing on behalf of Valley Neighbors for Environmental Quality and Safety. We are working hard to push Benton County into alternative waste disposal futures, and the CleanLane model is important for our future.

I urge you to support the CleanLane facility by passing HB 3971, which clears a land use pathway for construction of the CleanLane Resource Recovery Facility. This bill is necessary because the zoning code developed for this area never envisioned innovative solid waste facilities that contain multiple components for waste processing. CleanLane involves multiple waste diversion elements including recycling processing, which is already an allowed use. However, other waste diversion technologies such as anaerobic digestion fall into a grey area that this bill clarifies.

CleanLane is designed to recover valuable resources from waste, significantly reducing the amount of material sent to landfills while improving our environmental sustainability. This project is a huge step forward for responsible materials management in Oregon and serves a model for other counties in the Willamette Valley looking for solid waste solutions.

The benefits of CleanLane extend far beyond environmental impact; they promise to foster economic growth, improve public health, and create a model for sustainable waste management that can be replicated in other communities.

I urge you to prioritize this initiative by reducing bureaucratic obstacles that may impede the progress of the Clean Lane facility. Our community is counting on its leaders to make forward-thinking decisions that align with our values of sustainability and innovation.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your support for HB 3971 and a greener future for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Mark Yeager

Valley Neighbors for Environmental Quality and Safety