

May 21, 2025

OPPOSE HB 3971

Good morning, Chair Bowman, Vice Chairs Drazen and Pham and Members of the Committee.

My name is Steve Stewart. I own property and make my home adjacent to the proposed Clean Lane facility supersite and have lived here for the past 68 years. My home and property closest to the facility are zoned Exclusive Farm Use. I'm here to strongly oppose HB 3971.

For the past 6 months I have been appealing Clean Lane land use plans because it is prohibited in its zone, and because of the unbearable smell and noise it will bring to my home and property. Not to mention the extreme risk of gas explosion the facility poses to me, my community and a nearby school.

Nearly all of the county's garbage will be brought to this facility for processing and then re-transported out via trucks once processed, destined for the landfill.

The facility is unnecessary and redundant because there is already a processing facility in Glenwood and numerous other recycling facilities throughout the county that are successful and have allowed the county to enjoy a 53% recycling rate, which is the highest in the state.

Another one of my concerns is Wild Hog Creek which runs through my land and the so-called Clean Lane site. You saw the footage of the flooded properties. Wild Hog Creek floods frequently during spring, fall and winter. Any pollutants from the proposed facility – chemicals, waste, or runoff – could leach into the creek, contaminating my farmland and downstream neighbors' properties. The risk to our water and soil is unacceptable.

I still don't understand why the county abandoned its original plan to site Clean Lane at the Short Mountain Landfill. That location is better suited for industrial waste operations. If the county had stuck with that plan, we wouldn't be dealing with HB 3971, and you wouldn't be facing this opposition. Please reject this bill and protect our farms, our water, and our way of life.

I have a suggestion: Take the money allotted for this duplicative, unnecessary project and put it toward keeping local entities such as Sheldon Community Center, Libraries, CAHOOTS and several other city and county services to continue operating.

Thank you.

Steve Stewart