



133 SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Suite 201 • Portland, OR 97204 • (503) 497-1000 • fax (503) 223-0073 • www.friends.org  
Southern Oregon Office • PO Box 2442 • Grants Pass, OR 97528 • (541) 474-1155 • fax (541) 474-9389  
Willamette Valley Office • PO Box 51252 • Eugene OR 97405 • (541) 520-3763  
Central Oregon Office • 155 NW Irving Ave • Bend OR 97703 • (541) 797-6761

April 3, 2017

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resource  
State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony on SB 1036 – Landfill exemption from mining definition

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Chair Dembrow and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 1036, a bill that would exempt landfills from the definition of mining and thus from DOGAMI oversight and permit requirements. 1000 Friends of Oregon is a nonprofit, membership organization that works with Oregonians to support livable urban and rural communities; protect family farms, forests and natural areas; and provide transportation and housing choice.

We oppose this bill because DOGAMI's oversight over landfills is critical to ensuring that they are compliant with state law in both day-to-day operations and for long-term reclamation of the site. The DOGAMI permit process allows other state agencies to provide input on issues such as wildlife, water and air quality impacts.

Common landfill operations include several activities that could require review and permitting from DOGAMI, including removal of material and overburden for use as interim and final cover on the site and excavation and removal of material to expand refuse filling areas. More importantly, different landfills operate differently and thus a broad exemption for landfills from the mining rules and regulations could allow new or expanded landfills that have mining characteristics to proceed without DOGAMI oversight. In conclusion, we oppose this bill and urge a no vote. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Meriel L. Darzen  
Circuit Rider Staff Attorney