

Dear Oregon legislators: I'm writing an opposition to Senate Bill 451 which establishes eligibility for renewable energy certificates for facilities that generate electricity from direct combustion of municipal solid waste like the Covanta energy to waste facility in Brooks. I have visited the facility during a Marion County Environmental Services tour while I was studying to become a Marion County Master recycler. It is true that the facility powers some 1,200 homes and its vicinity, however, power produced from burning trash should not ever be considered renewable. Yes, we will always have some trash to deal with, but hopefully as we shift more toward truly renewable energy like wind, solar, or hydro, the 1200 homes powered by the Covanta facility in Brooks will have an alternate option for energy. In addition, as we keep embracing concepts such as refusing, reducing, and recycling, the amount of trash we produce will decrease with time which means the Brooks facility will have less raw material from which to produce energy.

This bill is dangerous not only because it considers trash a renewable raw material to produce energy, but also because, in the context of the clean energy jobs bill, which we all hope will pass, a facility such as Covanta could end up receiving credits on the basis of being renewable, allowing it to continue to perpetrate the status quo of burning trash, and weakening the bill. What we should do instead is look for alternative options for our County and State, and penalize the higher CO2 emitters in favor of true renewable sources.

Thank you for listening. I hope you can make the right choice **Please vote NO on SB 451.**  
Thank you.