



February 5, 2020

Representative Karin Power, Chair  
House Committee on Energy and Environment  
Oregon Legislature

RE: Environment Oregon opposes House Bill 4049

Chair Power and Members of the Committee,

Environment Oregon is a statewide, citizen-based environmental advocacy organization working for clean air, clean water and open space. We are opposed to House Bill 4049 because it undermines Oregon's climate and air quality goals.

First and foremost, trash incineration is not a renewable energy source. Incineration is extremely harmful to both the environment and local communities. For example, for every metric ton of plastic burned in an incinerator, 1,980 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) equivalent are released—nearly 15 times more than a ton of plastic waste that is landfilled.<sup>1</sup>

The public health effects of incineration are also grave. Emissions include carcinogens and neurotoxins, as well as contaminants that can cause or aggravate respiratory problems, particularly among children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing respiratory problems.<sup>2</sup>

Oregon should not be rewarding Covanta Marion, the 19<sup>th</sup> largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions, for contributing to the climate crisis, polluting our air and harming public health. Instead, renewable energy credits should be reserved for real renewable energy sources that make Oregon a cleaner, greener state and help mitigate the climate crisis.

Please protect the integrity of our renewable energy goals, our climate and our health and reject House Bill 4049.

Sincerely,

Celeste Meiffren-Swango  
State Director

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<sup>1</sup> Hamilton, Lisa Anne, and Steven Feit. *Plastic and Climate The Hidden Cost Of A Plastic Planet*. Center For Environmental Law, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Azoulay, David, et al. *Plastics and Health The Hidden Cost Of A Plastic Planet*. Center For Environmental Law, 2019.