

TESTIMONY OF JIM SCHEPPKE ON HB 4049

Chair Power and Members of the Committee:

As a resident of Salem I implore you to reject HB 4049 that would provide Renewable Energy Certificates to the Covanta Marion incinerator.

There are many reasons why this is a bad idea. First, the State of Oregon should not be subsidizing a New Jersey-based multinational corporation to fund deferred maintenance on a facility that has been operating without a subsidy since 1987. Second, there is an opportunity cost to this subsidy. It would take away funds needed by authentic renewable energy projects designed to reach our state's carbon reduction goals. Third, I am now paying the among the highest garbage rates in the state because of the high costs of incineration, while my neighbors in West Salem get to pay lower rates because their garbage goes to a state-of-the-art landfill that is *much* less polluting than the incinerator. I would welcome the opportunity to have my rates match those of my neighbors were the incinerator to have to close because it is no longer profitable.

I fear if HB 4049 were to pass that my neighbors and I will be stuck with unreasonably high garbage rates and a toxic, carbon-polluting facility in our backyards for many years to come.

Please reject HB 4049.

Respectfully,

Jim Scheppke
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