

To: Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environment  
From: Jessica Beckett, Sierra Club, Oregon Chapter  
Date: February 6th, 2020  
RE: House Bill 4049

My name is Jessica Beckett, and I serve as Conservation and Political Director for over 25,000 members of the Sierra Club, Oregon Chapter. We submit this testimony in united opposition to HB 4049, which grants renewable energy credits to Covanta Marion for the incineration of municipal waste.

As an organization with a long history of working to combat the effects of climate disruption in Oregon, the Sierra Club was pleased to participate in the expansion of the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) in the Clean Energy and Coal Transition bill in the 2016 session. That legislation bumped up the RPS to 50% by 2040 and required that out-of-state coal energy be eliminated from our energy mix by 2030. The "Coal to Clean" bill was a major step forward for the RPS in Oregon. Now, as with last year's SB 451, we must once again stand to prevent a handout to one business that seeks to undermine the forward progress that makes Oregon a leader in energy policy across America.

Covanta Marion has operated since 1987 without renewable energy credits, and should continue to do so with corporate welfare from the state of Oregon. As a multinational corporation that continues to defer its own maintenance needs, Covanta Marion bears sole responsibility for the health of its business, particularly by pursuing policy that threatens the health of Oregonians with 74,424 metric tons of anthropogenic carbon dioxide equivalents (mtCO<sub>2</sub>e) in 2017, plus another 86,419 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e that were biogenic. If the facility closes, it will not be because of lack of RECs. Furthermore, tested and proven alternatives exist that **can reduce waste by up to 90% through zero-emission options such as reduction, reuse, and composting.**

The legislature is under no prior obligation to give eligibility for renewable energy credits to Covanta Marion. To do so sets a dangerous precedent of corporate welfare prioritizing the business over our citizens

For these reasons, Oregon Sierra Club opposes HB 4049, and we urge you to pursue policies that truly advance our renewable energy goals and prioritize the health and will of the people of Oregon.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to the committee. Please let me know if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Jessica Beckett  
Conservation and Political Director  
Oregon Sierra Club