

From: [Meg R](#)
To: [HEE Exhibits](#)
Subject: Pls. Reject House Bill 4049
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 8:41:28 PM

Dear Madam/Sir,

My name is Margaret E. Ruby. I live in Portland OR. I am an Oregonian and I raised my kids here. I hold an M.S. from the OSU School of Forestry.

I write to ask you to reject House Bill 4049, which wrongfully would give renewable credit eligibility to Oregon's only waste incinerator.

Said incinerator, Covanta Marion, has been incinerating waste since before I went to OSU for my M.S. since 1987. They don't need and do not deserve renewable energy credits from the State of Oregon.

This is a cynical, farcical and terrible ruse: Coventa Marion is Oregon's 19th largest greenhouse gas emitter.

Our state, our country the world is in a climate crisis. Just a few weeks ago, we have entered the era of epic forest fires, the loss of winter ice and water storage, this is no joke. Antarctica just posted the highest temperature ever recorder there.

Wake up please! We need YOU our lawmakers to cast votes that help defuse the climate crisis. Do not cast a vote that add fuel to the fire by giving tax breaks to a facility that is making climate change worse.

It's true Coventa Marion leads the pack...but not in clean energy, it's in polluting and cheating and killing our snow catchments for drinkable water.

- Covanta Marion was selected by the Cleaner Air Oregon program for priority inspection. Out of hundreds of facilities, **Covanta is the single largest polluter of particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, and sulfur oxides in Marion County. It also emits dioxins**, an incredibly harmful and persistent environmental contaminant.
- **Renewable energy credits are intended to support new, renewable energy.** Even large hydroelectric dams do not qualify for these credits because they predate the creation of Oregon's 2007 renewable portfolio standard.
- There is no reason to believe that Covanta will close without state renewable energy credits. Communities in Marion County are hard at work organizing to reduce waste in Marion County and advocate for more responsible solutions beyond burning or dumping trash.
- In 2019, lawmakers who voted for a version of this bill (to grant renewable received a **negative mark on their environmental scorecard** from the Oregon League of Conservation Voters.

Please oppose House Bill 4049 and preserve time in the short, 35-day legislative session for important issues.

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Never underestimate the power of a few committed people to change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.

— Margaret Mead