

Submitter: Roberta Cade

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB488

The smokestack of the Covanta Marion incinerator has toxic emissions above the Federal standards for this facility. Covanta Marion is the 4th largest incinerator in the nation that still burns untreated medical waste, which is more toxic than municipal because of the plastics. Covanta brings in more than 50% of the medical waste it burns from out-of-state. The combustion of this waste is responsible for dangerous emissions of dioxin, lead, mercury, cadmium, dozens of volatile organic compounds, climate-driving gasses, and more. However, the Oregon DEQ regulates the incinerator under very weak rules. Senate Bill 488 will require the DEQ to adopt more health protective federal air pollution standards for incinerators that burn a large amount of medical waste.