

Submitter: Sarah Deumling  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
Measure: SB488  
RE: SB 488

Our post WWII way of life has put so many and such quantities of toxins into our environment that is contributing in known and yet unknown ways to our collective physical and mental health. Communities whose voices are underrepresented in decision making are often more negatively affected than communities with the money and power to be heard. Sometimes the truth is even stretched in the interest of more profit for decision makers or their allies.

The Covanta incinerator is the largest polluter in Marion Co. and among the 20 largest in the state. It was established and licensed in the 1980s at local expense to burn Marion County's municipal waste. Recently it has moved from Marion Co. ownership to corporate ownership (with no remuneration to Marion Co. or its tax payers) and is owned by a hedge fund entity based in Sweden. It burns not only municipal waste but quantities of hospital waste from many states and other countries. It also can and does burn unlimited amounts of industrial waste (the really bad stuff that no one else wants to deal with) from other states as far away as the east coast as well as Canada. Both industrial and medical waste produce more toxic air pollution than municipal waste but the incinerator continues to be regulated (due to a loophole in the EPA ) as a municipal waste incinerator. HB 488 would close this loophole by regulating it as a medical waste incinerator and therefore helping to clean up the air in the most contaminated areas around the incinerator.

THIS IS A NO BRAINER! especially if the Covanta website is correct and they are "Environmental Justice Advocates".

Covanta may advocate that our DEQ's Cleaner Air Now program can take care of this but it can't. Incinerators are FEDERALLY regulated. It has been nearly 5 years since CAN was established and nothing has happened regarding emissions regulation. Corporations are practiced at stalling, asking for more time, appealing etc. Tax payers and air breathers in the neighborhood do not have this luxury.

Of note is the fact that there were 188 incinerators in the U.S. in the 1990s and there are only 68 remaining. History, as well as economics and the environment, are on the side of moving toward less polluting ways of dealing with our trash. Get on the bandwagon Covanta (and the Senate comm. on Environment. . .), get on the right side of history, walk your talk as Environmental Justice Advocates and support the

emissions loophole closing bill, SB 488.

Thank you for your work and for making Oregon (and Salem) a better place to live.

Sincerely,

Sarah Deumling