

Submitter: Hannah Fick

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB488

Hannah Fick

Willamette Student

I am writing to you today in support of SB 488, The Medical Waste Incinerator Act to close the loophole that allows the Covanta Incinerator in Brooks, Oregon to burn excess amounts of medical waste under municipal waste instead of medical waste regulations.

Re: Closing the Medical Waste Loophole SB 488

Senate Energy and Environment Committee:

My name is Hannah Fick, and I live in Salem, Oregon and I am writing on behalf of all people living in close proximity to the Covanta Marion Incinerator. I live less than 10 miles away from the plant and would consider that to be in my surrounding area because we are all breathing the same air and it will not clean itself!

The Covanta Marion incinerator is located in a low-income, Latina/o community and is only .4 miles away from a K-12 Private School. It is also near a multitude of farmland and college campuses such as Northwest University Salem Campus and Chemeketa Community College. Under-regulated Waste incinerators can produce toxic heavy metals that can cause a plethora of adverse health impacts to the brain and body. This incinerator specifically burns medical waste from other states that pollutes the air with even more poisonous chemicals. Waste incinerators are worse than coal!

I urge you to pass SB 488 in the 2023 legislative session to ensure that the loop hole is closed and that Oregon does not become a dumping ground for other states' waste.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Fick