

Submitter: Anna Lauridsen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB488

Dear Chair Sollman; Vice Chair Findley; and Sen. Golden, Sen. Hayden, Sen. Lieber of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee,

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.

I have lived in Salem for the last four years attending Willamette university and studying sociology. I first learned about the Covanta incinerator in class. I was appalled by its proximity to many communities, including my university, while burning under-regulated, imported medical waste. I was particularly shocked by the loophole on an almost 40 year old incinerator. Closing this loophole will not only hold Oregon to a higher standard for air quality, but will also protect Oregonian's health.

Covanta is operated by an European company, whose health is not directly impacted by the incinerator. Oregonians should be your priority, not corporations.

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.

Sincerely,
Anna Lauridsen